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SCIENCE & STEWARDSHIP



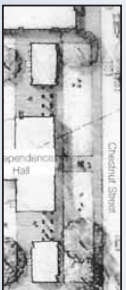
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Layout by Mark Hall • ISC/CISS Graphics



Good Hearts Make Great Neighbors

Feeding the poor and homeless, caring for the elderly and sick, cheering the hospitalized. Those activities are not in the job description. They come from the heart. Thousands of Interior employees use their free time, annual leave, own money, and other resources to carry out a shining spectrum of volunteer initiatives in their communities. Several hundred of these projects are carried out annually across the nation, many during the Holiday Season, but most throughout the year. A sampling of the variety and spirit of these commitments to community is on pages 2-3.



Hudson Casino Controversy

Vowing complete vindication, Secretary Babbitt urges Interior employees to guard against being distracted from their goals and efforts by the Hudson Casino Controversy and the creation of an independent counsel to look into the Department's decision on the 1995 Indian gaming proposal. Babbitt also described some of his feelings and 'Kafkaesque' experiences during the ordeal, 10-11

Two by Two

FWS works abroad and at home to fight the illegal international trade in endangered animals, 16-17



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Deconstructing Distrust: NPS a Favorite in Survey Showing Stronger Support for Federal Workers

The National Park Service ranked second highest overall among the public's favorite agencies in an independent survey that found America's attitude toward the Federal Government has improved modestly. The NPS received an 85 percent favorable rating, up five percent from 1987. The U.S. Postal Service received 89 percent, up from 76 percent. Other favorites were the Centers for Disease Control, the Department of Defense, NASA, the Food and Drug Administration, and the FAA.

The survey showed federal civil servants are well regarded by most of the public: 69 percent had a favorable opinion of federal workers. However, distrust of government was substantial: only 33 percent trust the government in Washington most of the time. That is up from 21 percent in 1994. Moreover, 56 percent tempered their negative judgment, saying they are frustrated with the government; 29 percent were content and only 12 percent expressed anger with it. While the health of the country colored public perceptions, other major factors shaped those views: "Disillusionment with political leaders is essentially as important a factor in distrust of government as is criticism of the way government performs its duties," the report said. By a 67 to 16 percent margin, the poll found more trust in the nation's civil servants than in its political leaders.

The survey also found robust support for an activist government—the preferred instrument for managing the economy, conserving natural resources, providing for the elderly, ensuring the safety of food and medicine, and access to affordable health care. Most Americans agreed that the government is basically sound and needs only reform; nearly all expressed confidence that it can work better. The Pew Research Center for the People and the Press polled about 4,000 adults over the last six months for the survey. Call (202) 293-3126 for a copy of Deconstructing Distrust.

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Interior People: Caring About Community



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Every Fourth Tuesday: Feeding the Homeless and Poor in Salt Lake City

Every fourth Tuesday, employees from Reclamation's Salt Lake City, Utah, office help feed the homeless. Six volunteers at a time line up at a serving counter in the kitchen of the St. Vincent de Paul Center and serve hot cooked meals to about 450 homeless and working poor people.

What started as a Bureau of Reclamation Employee Association public service project in the Spring of 1995 has evolved into a regularly scheduled event. More than 93 people—55 percent of the Regional Office employees—have participated. Volunteers contribute their lunch hour plus 30 minutes of annual leave. Spending 90 minutes each time they serve, Reclamation employees have totaled 300 hours of community service for the homeless, serving 14,850 meals—the equivalent to 4.2 miles of food trays.

Volunteers are recruited each month with an e-mail message. **Tom Walsh**, who initiated and coordinates the program, sorts out volunteers, giving employees who have not served previously first priority. "This is a program where experience works against you," said Walsh. "Bringing in new people and exposing as many people as possible to the problems of poverty and homelessness enhances the base of support for relief agencies."



Volunteers, from left, Jayne Kelleher, Hitomi Yamaguchi, Judy Belka, Luanna Lambert, and Jeff Painter serve up steaming meals to the homeless in Salt Lake City, Utah. All except Yamaguchi work in the Upper Colorado Region. Photo by Tom Walsh

This arrangement has turned out to be ideal for employees, due to the brief commute from the office and the ability to work in the middle of the day using minimal annual leave. For other offices interested in starting similar programs, Walsh suggests looking for nearby social relief agencies that need volunteer labor during daytime hours. Once a community service program is underway, getting volunteers is easy, because the work is heartwarming. Call Tom Walsh at (801) 524-3760 for information on how to start up a similar community service project in your area.

Bringing Teddy Smiles to NYC's Hospitalized Children

The conspirators include an anonymous donor, a new York City marketing firm, several hospital administrators, and the National Park Service's Manhattan Sites unit. For more than a decade, they have planned and carried out a campaign to bring smiles to the faces of New York City children who are hospitalized during the holidays.

This past December the program reached a milestone—a child received the 40,000th Teddy Bear since the annual campaign began. In each of 11 consecutive years, several thousand hospitalized children in New York City have received brand new Teddy Bears.

Joseph T. Avery, superintendent of National Park Service Manhattan Sites, which sponsors the program, is proud that his agency brings smiles to so many children who, because of serious illness and injuries, have been forced to spend Christmas and Chanukah in hospitals. "I'm not aware of any other organization in the New York area that has brought smiles to the faces of so many hospitalized children on a continuing basis," Avery added.

The Teddy Bear program recognizes the association of President Theodore Roosevelt with the cuddly stuffed toys. Following a hunting trip in Mississippi in 1903 in which "TR" was credited with saving the life of a small bear cub, a New York City businessman requested and received permission from the White House to market toy "Teddy's Bears."

Roosevelt was the only New York City native to be elected president. His birthplace at 28 E. 20th Street in the Grammercy Park section of Manhattan is a historical site



Charles Markis, site manager of the Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace NHS in New York, and 'Teddy Roosevelt' hold one of the Teddy Bears distributed by Park Service Manhattan Sites to hospitalized children during Christmas.

that is administered and managed by NPS Manhattan Sites. Avery noted that many people deserve credit for the Teddy Bear program's ongoing success, singling out the local businessman who has continually contributed funds with which to purchase the bears. "In the true spirit of giving, this donor has requested that he not be identified," Avery added.

Gary Brill, vice president of a New York City marketing firm, has provided and shipped the bears at what Avery described as a "phenomenal price" to help the Park Service meet its annual quota. And staffs at New York City's hospitals have been wonderful in helping distribute the bears to the children, said Avery. Although he is proud of having reached the 40,000 milestone, Avery intends to continue this annual campaign and would like to see it grow for many more years.

USGS RETIREES JOIN VOLUNTEERS AT ANNUAL WORKSHOP

U.S. Geological Survey retirees join volunteer staffers at the Survey's Flagstaff Field Center for an annual workshop that provides valuable educational services to earth science teachers in Arizona. The project enhances educators' backgrounds in geology and helps them feel more comfortable teaching the

subject in their classrooms. The teachers also get professional development credit for the courses. The most recent workshop focused on the unusual volcanics of the Pinacate Volcanic Field and the extensive aeolian sand sheets of the Gran Desierto of northern Sonora, Mexico. Story, page 9.

Northern Prairie Employees Caught Moonlighting from Interior Jobs

Bobby Cox

More than 40 employees of the USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center in Jamestown, N.D. have been moonlighting from their jobs. The list includes section chiefs, biologists, statisticians, and technicians. After work, they have been seen loading sacks of malt barley into their vehicles, and driving to remote rural areas, where they work on their second job long into the night.

It’s all part of a volunteer effort to help the Central Flyway Council with its annual duck banding throughout the Dakotas and Montana. The council was established in 1948 to represent states in the Central Flyway and to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the cooperative management of North American migratory game birds. Council membership includes ten states, two Canadian provinces, and the Northwest Territories.

Each summer, four full-time crews of two persons each are hired and operate in the tri-state area. Volunteers from Northern Prairie have formed a fifth crew to assist in the project. Objectives of the banding effort are to increase the precision of survival estimates for mid-continent mallards and blue-winged teal by capturing and banding these species on their breeding grounds.

The ducks are caught in swim-in-type traps made of welded wire, with chicken-wire funnels used to lead ducks into the traps. The crew uses barley to lure the ducks into the traps. In 1996, the first year of the six-year project, the five crews banded 13,600 ducks, including 9,748 blue-winged teal and 3,166 mallards. In 1997, all crews combined banded 19,877 ducks, including 5,146 mallards and 12,079 blue-winged teal. The Northern Prairie crew banded 25 percent of the ducks in 1996 and 17 percent of the ducks in 1997. Most of the ducks banded by the Northern Prairie crew are blue-winged teal, which have been very abundant near Jamestown with the return of plentiful water to the prairies.

Because members of the volunteer crew already work full-time during the day, they do all their banding at night after the last ducks crowd into the traps at dusk. Thus, the crew is ‘moonlighting’ in the truest sense. Although it takes a lot of work, most staffers



Dave Brandt, left, and Bobby Cox, right, set bait traps for blue-winged teal north of Jamestown, North Dakota as part of their volunteer effort to help the Central Flyway Banding Project. Both work at the USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, where Brandt is a biological technician, and Cox is a statistician.

have really enjoyed the banding. Many biologists became interested in this field because they liked being outdoors and working hands-on with wildlife. With the advent of computers and increased paperwork demands, many of the volunteers view the banding as an opportunity to keep in touch with the land while contributing to a worthwhile project. Northern Prairie staff plan to assist with the project during each of the next four years until the project is completed.

Major cooperators in the project are the Central Flyway Council, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, and state fish and game departments from North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana. **Art Brazda** (retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), along with **Stan Kohn** and **Mike Johnson** of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, coordinate the project. In addition, an important cooperator in 1997 was **Ladish Malting Company** of Spiritwood, N.D., which donated 10,000 pounds of barley used to bait the waterfowl traps.

FORMER CAROLINA FARMER HELPS BROOKLYN NEIGHBORS

William R. Miller grew up on a farm in Pittsboro, North Carolina. “I was driving a tractor when I was only seven years old,” he says with a huge grin. “You can take the boy away from the farm, but you’ll never take the farm away from this man,” he adds when he discusses his primary pre-occupation, tending several vegetable gardens throughout Brooklyn and helping his fellow New Yorkers at the same time.



Miller retired in 1972 after serving on active duty with the U.S. Army for more than 21 years at various military installations throughout the United States. He also served in Vietnam, Korea, Germany, and Japan. He attained the rank of Sergeant first class and earned several awards. The award of which he is most proud was presented to him by **Major General Wesley Franklin** at

William R. Miller admits reluctantly that he generally does much of the field work for his gardening friends and neighbors in Brooklyn, New York.

Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Miller earned that award for his decisive judgment and extraordinary initiative as coordinator of the general’s enlisted staff of 200.

The 68-year-old Brooklyn resident has spent the last three years working at Gateway National Recreation Area’s maintenance department at Floyd Bennett Field. He loves keeping busy, he says, adding that the pay helps supplement his retirement income.

But his first love is, and always has been, gardening. That’s why as soon as the frost disappears each spring, he busily tends to his own vegetable gardens behind the building in which he and his wife live, and elsewhere in the borough. The gardens are maintained by New York City’s Operation Green Thumb. Not only do he and his wife give away the close to 300 pounds of produce he grows each season to neighbors, needy families, and shut-ins but he also helps Brooklynites raise their own produce.

As if that wasn’t enough, Miller also regularly works with residents of an institution in Brooklyn for individuals who are mentally challenged, teaching them how to garden. For many it is their only experience out-of-doors. Miller’s wife Clara doesn’t share his gardening enthusiasm. But she makes a contribution to New York in her own way, he says. She crochets doll’s clothing, much of which she gives away to neighbors and to others.

Minneapolis’ Duck Day Draws Thousands ‘For the Birds’

Dan Sobieck, Outreach Coordinator, FWS Region 3

You really could say this event was ‘for the birds.’ Called the largest project of its kind in the country, the third annual Duck Habitat Day at the Minneapolis Convention Center once again brought bird enthusiasts together for a good old-fashioned house raising—bird houses,

More than 60 Fish and Wildlife Service employees and family members volunteered at the Jan. 31 event, staffing six different Service exhibits and helping an estimated 8,000 waterfowl enthusiasts build wood duck and bluebird houses and more than 100 bird feeders.

“Not only was this a great project for ducks and non-game birds, it gave us the chance to teach people about waterfowl identification and our own programs such as refuges, private lands, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and the Junior Duck Stamp,” said **Bill Hartwig**, the Service’s regional director. “Plus, everyone had a great time.”

Jim Leach, the Region 3 Joint Venture coordinator, agreed. “It’s a great family event that’s grown each year,” said Leach, who worked closely with sponsor Holiday Sports/Gander Mountain, a Midwest sporting goods retailer, to prepare for the free public event. “Holiday does a terrific job getting Duck Habitat Day organized. They also provided all the funding, purchasing materials to build more than 3,000 wood duck boxes and 500 bluebird boxes.”

Using the tools and hardware supplied at each workstation, participants quickly transformed piles of rough-cut cedar into solidly built houses that begged for placement in the nearest marsh or meadow. The crowning touch to each box was the attachment of a metal plate commemorating the event and date of construction. Given the professional design and sturdy materials used, these boxes should serve as ‘home sweet home’ for many broods to come.

In addition to Service employees, volunteers from the local Viking Council of the Boy Scouts of America and the Minnesota Waterfowl Association helped staff the nearly 100 construction stations. Within minutes of opening the doors to the public, the stations were busy. At times, lines three or four deep formed at each station as moms, dads, grandpas, grandmas, and kids—lots of kids—queued up to take their turns. Some tykes had trouble just lifting the hammers, but with a little help and encouragement from volunteers, they soon were proud owners of their own bird home.

Participants were invited to take the houses they built with them after the event or leave them for placement

At right, a volunteer explains the dimensions and positioning of wood duck nest boxes to one of the several thousand visitors to Minnesota’s third annual Duck Habitat Day. Below, local Boy Scouts fill a finished duck box with cedar shavings used for nesting material. Photos by Steve Kufrin



by the Minnesota Waterfowl Association. “I’m bringing mine to my Grampa’s cabin,” quipped one little fellow as he proudly lugged his duck box toward the exit. “He won’t believe it when I tell him I made it myself!”

This was the third Holiday Sports/Gander Mountain Duck Habitat Day to be held in the Minneapolis area. Due to its success, Holiday Sports representatives are considering expanding the event to other cities in the Midwest. A similar event is already planned for Alexandria, Minnesota. Because of its family orientation and educational theme, Region 3 will continue to be a major partner in the event. For more information about Duck Habitat Day, contact Jim Leach at (612) 725-3313.

Around the Department

NAABFE Works to Eradicate Discrimination & Promote Equal Employment Opportunity

The National Association for the Advancement of Black Federal Employees (NAABFE) is a professional organization with Departmental recognition. Chartered in 1994, its mission is to work towards the eradication of systemic racial discrimination and the advancement of equal employment opportunity and affirmative action goals in the Federal Government.

In carrying out that mission, the association works closely with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and will provide representation to the NAACP ad hoc council against federal discrimination. NAABFE participated in the 1998 NAACP Summit on Employment Discrimination in the Federal Sector: *Issues, Practices and Patterns*, which was held at the University of Maryland, College Park Maryland, on Jan. 17. The summit commemorated the struggle of **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, and was aimed helping Americans to understand that the struggle to achieve racial equality is still an issue that must be addressed in this country.

NAABFE has been singularly dedicated to monitoring the employment practices throughout Interior; promoting an equitable employment agenda for African Americans; and offering awareness-raising informational seminars to the employees. The association has also taken on the challenge of providing resources to improve the quality of education for our children. NAABFE is unique in that it is a pro-active group that supports and initiates change to improve the employment conditions and working environment for African American employees. Although its mission and focus is on



Officers of the National Association for the Advancement of Black Federal Employees include, from left, Lavonia Joseph - Secretary, Dottie Williams - Treasurer, Marshall Brookes - Ex-President, Sandra McCrary - President, and Romella Arnold - Vice President.

African Americans, its membership is open to all federal employees without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, or physical and mental disability. Membership applications are available in room 1316, MIB.

To paraphrase an often quoted statement by Frederick Douglas, the price of freedom is eternal vigilance. NAABFE is committed to promoting Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity for African Americans, and will continue to address important employment policies and practices that will affect us well into the 21st century. NAABFE's regular meeting schedule for the next few months is as follows: March 18, April 15, May 20, and June 17. All meetings are held in room 7116, at noon, in the MIB. For more information on the National Association for the Advancement of Black Federal Employees, write to: P.O. Box 27145, Washington, DC 20038-7145, or call 1(800) 860-1200, code # 539229.

OFFSHORE RANGERS SHED 'BOX LIFE'

Tim R. Glass, Facility Manager,
Channel Islands National Park

For one year, **Kent Bullard, Earl Whetsell, Troy Neilan, and Dave Brooks** had to endure sleeping in a cramped conex box, and working half of the time in heavy fog and-or high wind conditions on remote San Miguel Island. With several others, they formed a National Park Service construction team that worked in stretches of eight consecutive days to erect a multi-use park building on San Miguel, which is part of Channel Islands National Park but lies 65 miles offshore from park headquarters in Ventura, California.

The modest housing structure was designed by Spencer & Associates, an architectural and engineering contractor to the Denver Service Center. It has 2,600 square feet of space, accommodating 2 one-bedroom efficiency units for the island rangers, a four-person bunkhouse for shortstay research and interpretive personnel, and a work station for NPS employees.

Kent, the maintenance mechanic supervisor and outer island foreman, has worked at Channel Islands NP for 17 years and was the 'McGyver' on the project. He installed the solar/wind electric power generation system on San Miguel that uses roof-mounted Seimens solar panels, gel cell batteries (no fumes), and converts low voltage DC power into 110/220 volts AC standard electricity. The system can produce 25KW of power per day and store enough power to keep the system energized for five days in the absence of windy or sunny days.

Earl, a maintenance mechanic leader and construction site chief, was also the chef of the group. On whatever island he is working, he insists on cooking and doing the dishes (What a guy!). His trailer residence on Santa Rosa Island is nicknamed the 'Whitsell Bar and Grill,' and is renown for its excellent spaghetti, barbecue tri-tip beef, and UNO bean burrito. You have to bring your own salad.

The initiative was the most logistically difficult project ever attempted at Channel Islands NP because San

Miguel is the most remote area in the park. The only access to the construction site was up a steep half-mile trail from the beach or the helicopter landing area. About 500,000 pounds of material were put onto pallets (which could support up to 900 pounds) and then loaded onto work boats that were donated by Texaco. The material was transported to the island and then airlifted to the work site by a Bell Long Ranger helicopter.

The project was a team effort that was completed for only \$109 per square foot (buildings and utilities included). Park rangers were involved early on in the design, numerous supply vessels were provided by the marine division, and hot pizza and refreshments were served at an all-day concrete pouring party. It was great to be part of a group of people all pulling in the same direction to improve park housing.



The multi-use building has a post and beam, tung and groove construction and weathered exterior to replicate the rustic Lester Ranch buildings that once stood nearby. The roof shingles are made of 70 percent recycled copper, and the gutters collect rain water to flush the building's three commodes. The interior has vaulted ceilings, white washed oak cabinets, energy efficient lighting, and refrigerators that use .3 KW per day (300 watt).



The San Miguel project began in May 1996, when an H-53 helicopter, on loan from El Toro Marine Air Wing, flew the excavation equipment across the Santa Barbara Channel and ended when another helicopter carried off the last cramped conex boxes that had housed park employees.

GROUNDHOG DAY SHADOWS

Sylvia Jones

As part of School to Work Week (Jan. 26-Feb.2), Interior joined businesses, educators, and communities across America in the celebration of Groundhog Job Shadow Day. The goal was to give students a close-up look at what jobs at Interior are like and to help them discover how the skills they learn in school can be put into action in the workplace. Job Shadow Day (Feb. 2) focused on exploring the world of work, not just the details of the particular job students shadowed.

The Main Interior Building hosted 25 fifth and sixth grade students and three teachers from local partner schools—Ross, Stevens, and Bunker Hill Enterprise Elementary Schools. The day included a formal welcome by **Mari R. Barr**, the deputy assistant secretary for Human Resources. Representatives from several Interior bureaus discussed their jobs with the students. The agencies that participated included the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Park Police, Minerals Management Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The students also toured the U.S. Geological Survey's Earth Science Center. And students shadowed their workplace hosts, including **John Berry**—the assistant secretary for Policy, Management and Budget—around the Main Interior Building to get an idea of a busy work day schedule. According to reports from the three schools, the visit was not only fun but also a valuable educational experience for the teachers and students involved.

Doug Blankenship, from the Bureau of Reclamation, explains his bureau's activities and responsibilities to students from Interior's Washington, D.C. partnership schools.



Above top, students from Stevens Elementary School, accompanied by teacher Kenneth Rogers, and above, Bunker Hill Elementary School students, accompanied by teacher Eric Lewis, participated in Job Shadow Day.



Understanding EEO Complaints

Most are from Non-Minorities Most Allege Harassment, Reprisals

Melodee Stith, Director, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity

A number of statements have been made—and questions raised— around the Department about Equal Employment Opportunity complaints and the EEO process. These suggest that the complaint process is not widely understood. I would like to address these issues by providing some facts and generally clarifying where the complaints come from, what they are about, and the procedures required to resolve them.

The Department has a large number of EEO complaints. As of Sept. 30, 1997, Interior had 704 active EEO cases. They were filed by less than one percent of the Department’s 70,000 employees. About 54 percent of the complaints are from non-minorities and 46 percent are from all minority groups combined. Information on complaints filed by persons with disabilities is unavailable at this time. While six percent of the cases are filed on the basis of disability, the employees filing may not necessarily be disabled as defined by the Rehabilitation Act. Generally, most of those complaints involve employees who are temporarily disabled.

Why do we accept frivolous complaints? This question is asked quite frequently. But what is a frivolous complaint? Webster defines frivolous as “unworthy of serious attention; trivial; inappropriately silly.” Personally, I don’t find employees’ concerns about their employment or work environment frivolous. Some will say a frivolous



Melodee Stith

Where are the complaints coming from? The majority of Interior’s cases are filed in the three largest bureaus: the National Park Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Bureau of Land Management. These bureaus hold more than half (66 percent) of the Department’s caseload. Of course, these bureaus also have more than half of Interior’s workforce. Again, the complaints are filed by less than one percent of these bureaus’ employees. The remaining 44 percent of the cases are from the five other bureaus.

What are these complaints about? In the last fiscal year, the most prevalent issue raised in the complaints (34 percent) alleged harassment based on sex, race, national origin, religion, age, and disability. A large number of complaints were also filed on allegations of discrimination in the denial of promotion and on the general terms and conditions of employment—such as work schedules, office space, and general treatment.

The most prevalent discriminatory basis raised in complaints was the allegation of reprisal. Three hundred and sixty-four (25 percent) of the cases filed in 1997 were reprisal complaints. Reprisal includes actions taken against employees because they: have filed a previous EEO complaint; have given a statement in a complaint as a witness; or have otherwise participated before in a protected EEO activity. Thus, many complaints are filed by employees who have filed other complaints. Reprisal laws not only protect employees who file complaints but also EEO professionals in carrying out their EEO responsibilities.

The second most prevalent basis raised in complaints was sexual discrimination alleged by women (22 percent). Age discrimination (over the age of 40) was alleged in 12 percent. Sexual discrimination alleged by men accounted for ten percent and discrimination on the basis of race (Black) was alleged in ten percent. These represent Department-wide numbers. The percentages within individual bureaus may vary.

Complaints filed on the basis of sexual orientation are handled in the informal EEO counseling process and every effort is made to resolve them by using the alternate dispute resolution process. Complete statistical data is unavailable at this time because informal complaint activity is not reported outside the bureaus. Complaints based on sexual orientation that are not resolved in the counseling process are filed formally in the administrative grievance process.

How are cases closed? There are four ways: they can be informally resolved by agreement between the employee and management; voluntarily withdrawn by the employee; dismissed for procedural reasons; or a final decision can be issued based on the existing record or from a hearing held by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. In fiscal year 1997, 124 cases were settled, 31 were voluntarily withdrawn, 82 were dismissed, and 248 decisions were issued. Of the decisions on the merits, eleven (four percent) were findings of discrimination: five in the BIA, two each in the FWS and BLM, and one each in the USGS and NPS.

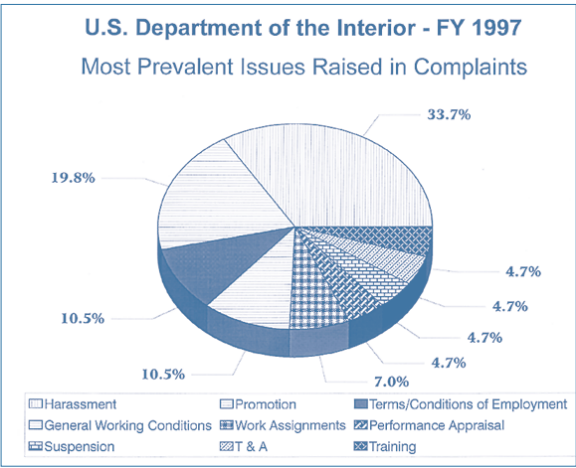
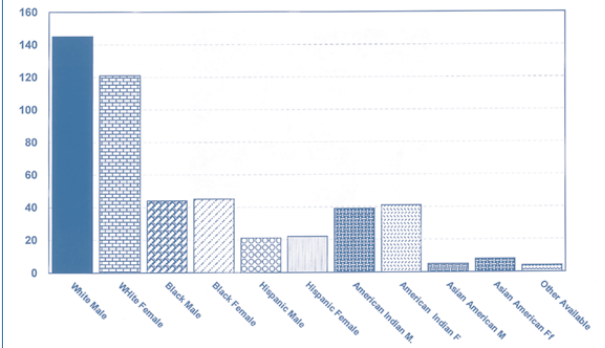
Why is the number of findings of discrimination so low? Many complaints are resolved informally by the bureaus. Of the 1,016 employees raising complaints in FY 1997 (beginning in the informal counseling stage), 58 percent were resolved prior to the formal complaint and an additional 11 percent were resolved after the formal filing. This is largely due to the bureaus’ use of alternate dispute resolution processes. With the small number of decisions finding discrimination, it can be reasonably said that bureaus resolve their problematic complaints within their own jurisdictions and as early as possible. When there are findings of discrimination on the merits, it is generally because the cases are more complex and difficult for the bureaus to informally resolve.

Why does it take so long to close a case? The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the federal agency that administers EEO laws nationwide, requires the bureaus and departments to complete the investigation of a complaint within 180 days of the filing and allows an additional 90-day extension. Bureaus normally complete the investigations within this time frame, barring extenuating circumstances beyond their control. For example, the complaint issues must be clearly identified and determined acceptable for investigation. Then, the investigator must schedule and locate the complainant and his or her representative, identify witnesses who have knowledge of the issues, and collect documents. With all of the variables in reviewing, coordinating, and getting everyone to agree on issues and schedules, the process often becomes very complicated. Moreover, most bureaus do not have the staffing to complete the investigations quickly and, therefore, depend on contractors to conduct the work.

Depending on the complexity of the case, an investigation can be completed in as little as 30 days or can expand far beyond the 270 days. The important point is that the completed investigation must allow for a thorough analysis of the merits of the complaint. After the investigation, the employee can request a decision on the existing investigative record or request a hearing before an EEOC administrative judge. Decisions issued by the Department average 60 to 90 days, while hearings by the EEOC can take as long as two years. Lack of resources is often the main impediment to timely decisions.

U.S. Department of the Interior

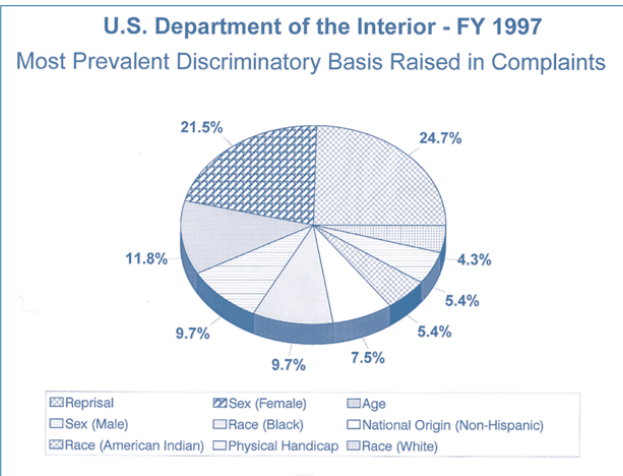
Overall RNO Profiles for Persons Filing Discrimination Cases



include the maximum remedy allowed by law. This may include back pay, attorneys’ fees, and/or compensatory damages. Collectively, Interior paid \$745,000 in monetary awards for 123 settlements and 11 findings of discrimination in FY97. In addition to money awards, corrective action may include expunging records, training, restoring leave, or other remedies.

Other actions are also taken relevant to findings of discrimination. The Department requires that a notice be posted for 60 days in the facility where the complaint arose, stating that discrimination has been found and that every effort will be made to eliminate the discrimination and prevent it from recurring. The Department also requires that the bureaus consider other appropriate actions to prevent and cure the type of discrimination found—such as training for supervisors and/or employees, disciplinary action, or any other administrative action deemed appropriate. These kinds of actions are taken at the discretion of the bureaus and are not considered personal relief to the employee.

Overall, the Department resolves and processes complaints extremely well. Compared to other agencies of similar size, Interior’s processing time is about average. The National Performance Review goals helped us to streamline and build a more efficient process. Multiple levels of review have been eliminated from the processing procedures and bureaus have been delegated processing authority up to the hearing stage. In the immediate future, the Department will focus on implementing the Diversity Strategic Plan which emphasizes improving diversity, preventing complaints, and increasing the use of alternate dispute resolution.



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Defining the Middle Ground Between the Excesses of Commercialism & Exclusivity

In an era of increasingly strident extremes, the historical partnership of landscape architecture and the National Park Service may yet serve as a viable precedent for preserving scenic landscapes by planning for limited recreational uses in wild areas.

That is an underlying theme of *Wilderness by Design* by **Ethan Carr**, a historical landscape architect at the Denver Service Center. In his study, which was released this month by the University of Nebraska Press, Carr describes the finest examples of what NPS landscape architects achieved in the 1920s and 1930s: the creation of a middle ground between the excesses of commercialism and exclusivity in the management of public lands.

He traces park planning and design practices from their origins in private estate and municipal park design to their application in larger scenic reservations, particularly in Grand Canyon, Glacier, and Mount Rainier national parks. The importance of landscape architecture to the history of national parks relates to the public's use and perception of the parks. *Wilderness by Design* examines the roads, trails, overlooks, and other carefully planned and designed works of landscape architecture that convey visitors through and mediate their experience of the most awesome wilderness areas of North America.

These designed landscapes have only recently begun to command the attention of park managers and historic preservationists as significant historic resources, according to Carr, who researched and wrote *Wilderness by Design* for the Park Historic Architecture and Cultural Landscape Program (NPS, Washington Office). It was the National Historic Landmark Theme Study of National Park Service Landscape Architecture. The historic landscapes described in the book have been designated National Historic Landmarks by the Secretary of the Interior as a result of this study.

University of Nebraska Press, March 1998, 384 pp.
8 drawings, 2 maps, 45 photographs, index.
\$45.00 (cloth) 0-8032-1491-X CARWIL
Available at bookstores or through the publisher:
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PO Box 880484
Lincoln, NE 68588-0484
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(Add \$4 for shipping and 50 cents for each additional copy.)

An Illusion of Undisturbed Nature

Another publication on the topic of national park landscapes was recently published by the John Hopkins University Press, in cooperation with the Center for American Places in Harrisonburg, Virginia. *Building the National Parks, Historic Landscape Design and Construction*, by **Linda Flint McClelland**, recounts how the landscape architects, building architects, and engineers of the National Park Service, since the early 20th century, have developed the parks for visitor appreciation and enjoyment while endeavoring to preserve each park's natural and scenic resources.

McClelland, a historian for the National Register of Historic Places, said her study explains how park designers presented the scenic wonders of each park through the location and design of roads, trails, overlooks, museums, and other facilities. She describes the techniques used historically to create naturalistic stone-veneered bridges, rustic-styled buildings, and plantings of native trees and wildflowers. "Harmony with nature was always an objective. Park designers used native materials and applied naturalistic principles of design, seeking ways to create the illusion that nature had never been disturbed." For information on the book, call (202) 343-9544.



Wilderness by Design is a comprehensive history of the physical development of America's national parks, examining the place of our national parks in the larger context of the American park movement and in the history of planned park development.

Scientists Present Research Findings at National Convention

Catherine Haecker, Duncan Morrow, Marion Fisher

At the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in February, USGS scientists presented research findings on a spectrum of topics, including seafloor mapping, petroleum, biological informatics, and taxonomy. The association is the largest general scientific society in the world, representing all the scientific and engineering disciplines. Its 144,000 members worldwide include scientists and engineers, as well as policy makers, educators, journalists, and students.

Bradford Butman, an oceanographer at the Woods Hole Field Center in Woods Hole, Mass., spoke about predicting the fate of contaminants in the New York Bight during a session entitled *Dredging Harbors: What To Do With Toxic Waste*. The study involves the use of sophisticated seafloor mapping and sampling equipment to provide a new, detailed regional map of sea floor characteristics in the offshore New York-New Jersey metropolitan area. Information from this study provides a regional framework for predicting the movement and long-term fate of sediments and associated contaminants. The information can also be used to guide habitat and resource management and develop strategies for monitoring long-term environmental change.



PARTNERSHIP PUBLISHES GUIDE TO TENNESSEE'S ENDANGERED SPECIES

Diana Hawkins

A new field manual entitled *Threatened and Endangered Species in Forests of Tennessee: A Guide to Assist with Forestry Activities* has been produced to help foresters, landowners, loggers, and others identify and conserve threatened and endangered species in Tennessee forests. The work is the result of a cooperative venture among Champion International Corporation, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, and the Tennessee Conservation League.

Most forestry-related activities do not negatively affect threatened or endangered species as long as users of the land adhere to recognized procedures known as "Best Management Practices," according to **Sam Hamilton**, the director of the Service's Southeast Region. However, situations do arise in which conflicts between land management activities, such as timber harvest, and the protection of these species occur. In most cases, there are workable solutions that not only protect the species but also allow landowners to use their property for other purposes without fear of prosecution.

The manual does not include all of Tennessee's federally or state-listed species, but does include those most likely to be affected by logging and other forestry activities, said **Dr. Lee Barclay**, supervisor of the Service's Ecological Services field office in Cookeville, Tennessee. Information about most of the species covered in the manual includes a color photograph, a brief description of the species and its habitat, a list of counties where it is known to occur, and a range map showing its known distribution in Tennessee. Forestry practices that may negatively affect these protected plants and animals are also identified.

"When Champion first approached us about developing and publishing this manual, we were excited and eagerly agreed to work with them on the project," Barclay said. Other agencies quickly signed on to provide either technical assistance or funding and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation also came forward with a grant to help defer costs. Copies of the 134-page manual are available for \$7.50, plus \$1.50 postage, from the Tennessee Conservation League, 300 Orlando Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee 37209. Phone: (613) 333-1133.



Sam Hamilton

Thomas Ahlbrandt, a geologist in Denver, Colo., organized a symposium marking the 150th Anniversary of the AAAS entitled: *Petroleum: The Past, Present and Future of a Needed Resource*. Six speakers, representing universities, non-profit state and national organizations, and industr, addressed petroleum topics ranging from its first American discovery in Titusville, Pa., in 1859, to responsiveness to environmental concerns, forthcoming technological developments, and links to societal issues.

Gary Waggoner, a biologist at the Center for Biological Informatics in Denver, Colo., organized a session on *Systematic Biology for the New Millennium*. Waggoner spoke on "Recognizing the Need for Taxonomic Information: A New Federal Perspective." Waggoner, who recently received one of Vice President Al Gore's prestigious Hammer Awards for reinventing government, leads an interagency team that developed an online taxonomic name database for the identification of biota.

Gladys Cotter, Office of Biological Informatics and Outreach in Reston, Va., facilitated a session on *Biological Diversity Information Infrastructure Development: Transnational Initiatives*, a program whose goal is to provide an increased level of access to biological diversity information. USGS has the lead in establishing the National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII), a computerized link with the wealth of biological information resources available through the Internet. According to a White House news release on the NBII forum at AAAS, a 'next generation' National Biological Information Infrastructure is needed that could allow researchers and resource managers worldwide to organize, interlink, and make full use of information generated on ecosystems and biodiversity.

USGS Dr. Ray Herrmann was elected a Fellow of American Association for the Advancement of Science, page 12.

Shedding Light on Hawaii's Visitors of the Dark

Mardi Lane, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park

At one time such large numbers of Hawaiian Dark-rumped petrels, or *'ua'u*, returned at twilight to their island nests that the incoming birds were said to have 'darkened the skies.' Now, only a few thousand of these shy seabirds struggle to survive on the fringes of their former nesting range.

Confined primarily to the frigid extremes of Hawaii Volcanoes and Haleakala National Parks' subalpine, this endangered species requires a helping hand to prevent its critical nesting place from becoming a final resting place.

The *'ua'u* is a dark gray bird with a white face and underparts. Its narrow three-foot wingspan and short wedge-shaped tail enable high flight interspersed with downward glides, steeply banked arcs, darts and zigzags. Roaming vast expanses of the Pacific Ocean, the typically solitary petrel spends most of its nearly thirty years at sea where it alternately feeds on squid, fish, and crustaceans and slumbers on rolling waves.

Just as the sea is its food pantry, the islands are its mating ground and nursery. Every February, *'ua'u* are bound to return to Hawai'i to breed and raise their young. After dark, the petrels fly miles inland to nesting colonies where they excavate burrows, or enlarge existing lava tubes and earthcracks, in the parks' steep and rocky terrain. Adults pair for life and return each year to the same nest site to clean out or elongate their burrow (burrows usually extend three to six feet but may be 30 feet long), collect grass, twigs or other nearby nesting materials, and mate. In March, adults desert the colony and return to sea to bulk up before egg laying.

By late April or May, successful breeders lay one fertile white egg in their earthen hollow, and both parents share in its incubation. After hatching, whenever its parents return to the nest chamber, the chick incessantly cheeps and nibbles at the adult's bill to stimulate regurgitation of stomach oil and semidigested seafood. By the time the chick is ninety days old it is nearly double the weight of its parent. Two to three weeks before fledging, the chick ventures forth under cover of darkness to explore the outside world. During these forays, it stretches and rapidly beats its wings, and sometimes climbs up on a rock that might some night serve as a take-off platform.

All fuzz and fat, the nestling is at this point quite defenseless and, to some both past and present, most delectable. Henshaw, in *Birds of the Hawaiian Islands* (1902), wrote that "the nestlings of the *'ua'u* were considered a great delicacy and were tabooed for the exclusive use of the chiefs. Natives were dispatched each season to gather the young birds which they did by inserting into the burrows a long stick and twisting it into the



Park wildlife biologist Darcy Hu holds the cat-ravaged skull and carcass of an *'ua'u*. Photo by William Ing, Hawaii Tribune Herald

Below, *'ua'u* pair for life and return each year to the same subterranean nest site. Photo by Eric Nishibayashi



down of the young which were then pulled easily to the surface." In *Birds of Hawaii* (1944), Munro noted that "the natives used the old birds as well as the young for food, netting them as they flew to the mountains in the evening."

The ravaging of *'ua'u* nesting colonies initiated by the Polynesians accelerated after Europeans and others introduced dogs, black and Norway rats, Small Indian mongooses, and house cats. The petrel's 60-day incubation period followed by a 120-day nestling period makes easy prey of both parents and chick. Additionally, the strong fishy odor of the bird and its food is a sure lure.

Wily predators drag eggs and chicks from burrows, ambush birds at tunnel entrances, and leave behind tell-tale signs of deadly deeds. Dogs mutilate carcasses, scattering feathers and limbs over a wide area. Rats leave eggshell pieces unevenly chewed, and eat and drink the contents. Mongooses chew a small hole in the side of the egg and lick up the insides. Cats crunch the back of the bird's skull and often leave both wings attached to a slightly chewed carcass stripped of most flesh, called a 'bridle' carcass.

Because wild house cats are large, far-ranging night hunters, they pose perhaps the greatest threat to Hawaii Volcanoes' remnant *'ua'u* population. In 1995, a cat trapped in a petrel nesting area had petrel feathers in its gut. In 1990, researchers found the carcasses of ten Dark-rumped petrels in a remote location at about 9,000 feet on Mauna Loa; another two carcasses were recovered last August. The condition of the remains fingered cats as the likely culprits. Though it is not known how long cats have roamed the subalpine, continued predation will certainly result in the petrel's extirpation.

The emerging picture is of a once incredibly numerous seabird species that nested on all of Hawai'i's main islands. Its population has now dwindled and contracted to a relatively small number of birds that find their primary refuge within protected national park lands. The future of *'ua'u*, (and that of all Hawai'i's native ground nesting birds) depends on control of alien predators around nest sites. Live trapping is the preferred control method; kill trapping risks injury to non-target species, including petrels. Pet owners are a part of the solution when they neuter all cats that are let outdoors and take unwanted house pets to Humane Society shelters, rather than abandon them in the wild.

Early Hawaiians named the Dark-rumped petrel after its distinctive, drawn out 'ooo—aa—ooo' call heard on spring and summer evenings as the birds flew to their nests from the sea. At that time, *'ua'u* filled the air with haunting howls and uncanny wailings, "combining such a number of sounds as to make it both indescribable and unforgettable." The designation endangered resonates with an ominous tone, yet means there is still time, time to save a bird that once darkened Hawaiian skies.

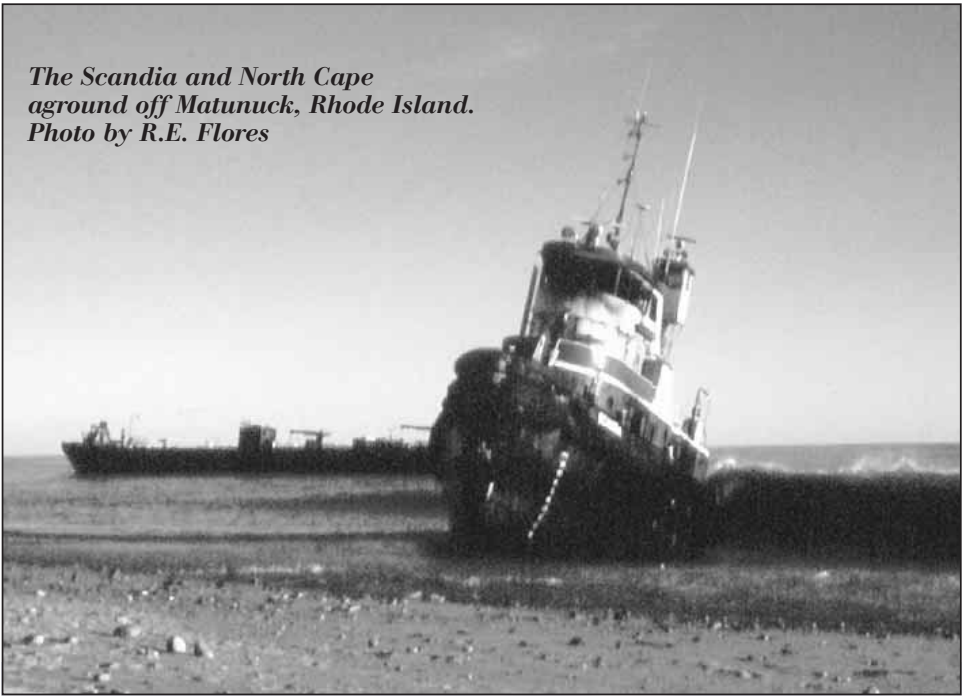
DISAPPEARING ABOLONE

The white abalone, *Haliotis sorenseni*, appears to be on the brink of extinction. These abalone are the deepest dwelling of eight species on the Pacific Coast, living in low relief rocky reefs 25-65 meters down. The white abalone, in its 1000 km historic habitat from near Santa Barbara to Punta Eugenia off Mexico's Baja peninsula, has been the research focus of Channel Islands National Park, CA, scientist **Gary Davis** since the 1980s. Davis continues to dive and use submersibles to collect data.

The popularization of diving, beginning in the 60s, and commercial fishing for the white abalone, may have contributed to the reduced populations. Many believed that by protecting the size of white abalone that could be taken and the season in which it was collected assured continued populations. Davis and other internationally based scientists of the White Abalone Working Group believe the remaining, rarely moving size and season, were so few and scattered they could not find mates. They are now dying of old age, isolated and alone on small deep reefs in spite of a 1995 Mexican law ceasing white abalone harvesting, followed by a 1996 law in California.

The working group is making an unusual pitch to manipulate the last survivors. It has called for a collaboration with the government and private interests in a 15-year, five step, strategy to curb the species extinction: find the survivors by surveying historic habitat, collect brood stock from the survivors, breed and rear a new generation of brood stock, establish refugia of self sustaining stocks in the wild, and raise public awareness. For more information, contact Holly Bundock at (415) 427-1320.

\$8.5 Million Fine for Spill



The *Scandia* and *North Cape* aground off Matunuck, Rhode Island. Photo by R.E. Flores

Christopher Dowd and Terri Edwards

Eklof Marine Corp-oration of New York, New York, was recent-ly sentenced in U.S. District Court in Providence, Rhode Island, to pay \$8.5 million in fines and payments for a 1996 oil spill off the Rhode Island coast. More than half of that amount will be used to finance federal conservation programs and the purchase of land by The Nature Conservancy in the area of the spill and \$3 million will go to the Fish and Wildlife Service for wetland protection.

"This is one of the largest criminal fines to be imposed under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act," said **Ron Lambertson**, the director for the FWS Northeast Region. "It is exceeded only by the penalty paid following the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska." Eklof Marine and two affiliated companies own the tugboat *Scandia* and the oil barge *North Cape*, which ran aground off Matunuck, Rhode Island, on Jan. 19, 1996, spilling 828,000 gallons of home heating oil. "The oil damaged wildlife habitat on the Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge and killed hundreds of migratory birds, including loons, waterfowl, grebes, and gulls," said Lambertson.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which the oil spill violated, prohibits the killing of migratory birds. The \$3 million awarded to the Service will be placed in its North American Wetlands Conservation Fund. During the sentencing, Judge Mary M. Lisi directed the Service to spend the funds to acquire, maintain, improve, and protect wetlands in the Service's Northeast Region with an emphasis on Rhode Island.

Ohmsett

MMS Tests Cutting-Edge Oil Spill Cleanup Technology

Joseph Mullin and James Lane

At 665 feet long, 65 feet wide, and 11 feet deep, it is the largest of its kind—a high tech tank to test the latest equipment and techniques for cleaning up oil spills and other floating hazardous material under environmentally safe conditions.

The computerized test tank is the centerpiece of Ohmsett—the National Oil Spill Response Test Facility. Operated by the Minerals Management Service through its Technology Assessment and Research Program, Ohmsett is located on the waterfront at Naval Weapons Station Earle in Leonardo, New Jersey.

The work at the facility aims to ensure that the best and safest technologies are used in offshore oil and gas operations. Many of today's commercially available oil spill clean-up devices have been tested at Ohmsett as either off-the-shelf equipment or equipment still under development.

The outdoor, above ground, concrete tank, which holds 2.6 million gallons of crystal clear water, is wired to a fully-computerized data collection system that includes above and below waterline video. Ohmsett also has an oil storage, distribution, and recovery system as well as a complete industrial shop and welding area for special fabrication. And there is plenty of open space at the site to prepare and clean test equipment.

Oil spills in the tank are created in simulated marine conditions. A wave generator allows researchers to create a range of wave heights to create a realistic test environment. By using a movable bridge that arches over the width of the tank, full-size oil containment booms and oil skimming systems can be towed the length of the tank at speeds of up to 6.5 knots.

Without Ohmsett, tests would have to be conducted in the open ocean, making the tests logistically difficult and far more expensive. Moreover, open ocean trials would make it virtually impossible to test equipment under consistently reproducible test conditions that can make scientifically valid comparisons between test runs as well as between different pieces of equipment.

The facility has recently undergone a major repair and refurbishing program that increased testing capabilities. The test basin was resealed and recoated. The entire computer system and numerous test instruments were upgraded and recalibrated. All three bridge systems were repaired and new instrumentation and video cameras were installed on the main bridge. The wave generator, artificial beaches, and the oil recovery and reprocessing systems were completely disassembled, cleaned, and repaired. The oil distribution system is currently being upgraded to handle the large volumes of oil used during full scale tests.

More than 33 different test series have been conducted to date. Even with the extensive upgrade campaign, fiscal year 1997 saw more than 100 test days. (Due to test

Pelican Flying Friendly Skies

Georgia Parham

A white pelican, rarely seen in the Midwest and apparently swept into northern Illinois by bad weather, will get a free ride back to Florida thanks to help from United Airlines, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

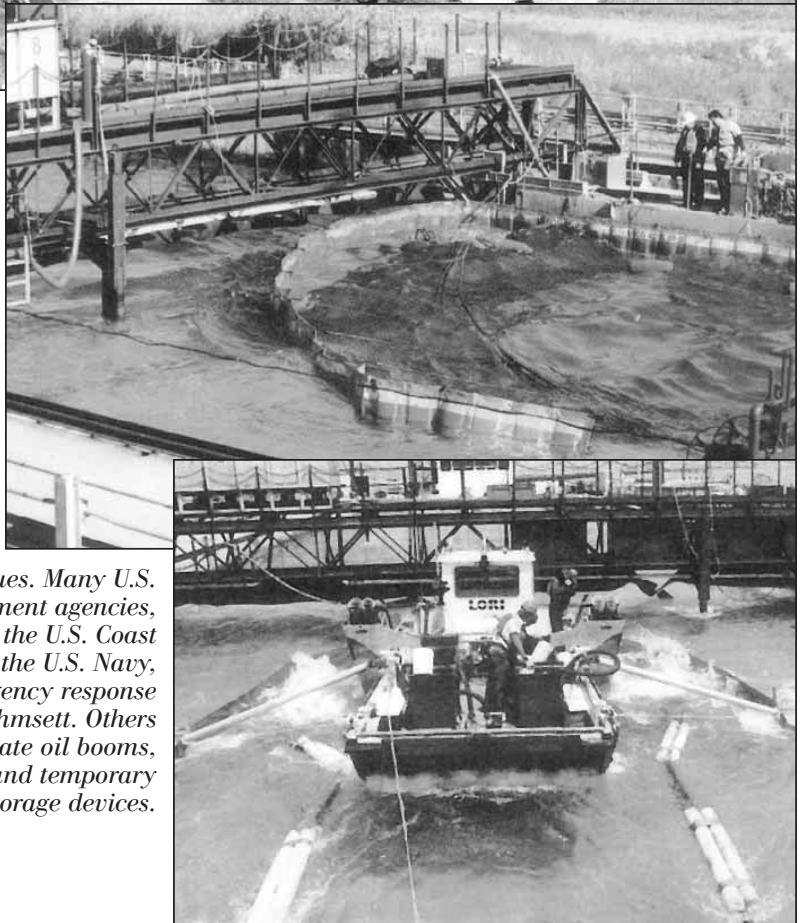
The white pelican, a species normally found in western and southern states, was discovered in mid-December along the Kankakee River in Kankakee County south of Chicago. Friendly fishermen provided food for the wayward bird but when temperatures plunged and the river froze, the Illinois DNR was called in. The pelican was taken to a wildlife rehabilitator in Aroma Park, who has been caring for the bird until it is ready for its trip south.

The pelican will fly home the easy way, in a container aboard a United Airlines jet bound for Tampa, Florida. Upon arrival, the bird will be met by state wildlife agents who will release it, or if necessary, place it in the care of a wildlife rehabilitator until it is ready for return to the wild.

White pelicans, while not an endangered species, are a rarity in this part of the country. These birds nest near lakes in western states and spend their winters along the Pacific Coast in central and southern California, along the Gulf of Mexico in Texas and Louisiana, and throughout Florida. Adult white pelicans weigh 17 pounds or more and sport wingspans more than nine feet. They have a long, distinctive reddish bill and the large pouch for which the species is famous. Their plumage is white with black wing tips. They eat fish, crayfish, and salamanders, sometimes working in groups to drive fish to shallow water where they are easier to catch.



At top, the high-tech test tank at Ohmsett, the largest of its kind in the world, creates a realistic marine environment to test oil spill cleanup equipment and techniques. Many U.S. government agencies, including the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Navy, train emergency response personnel at Ohmsett. Others evaluate oil booms, skimmers, and temporary storage devices.



preparations and seasonal weather conditions, Ohmsett is useable about 150 days per year.) Last year the facility was used by a number of U.S. and Canadian government agencies and academic institutions, including: the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), U.S. Navy, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency, Canadian Coast Guard, Environment Canada, the universities of New Hampshire, Miami, and Rhode Island, the Lincoln Laboratories of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, as well as private industry firms.

There are major benefits that result from testing equipment at Ohmsett: 1) The use of standard test protocols which incorporate American Society of Testing and Materials standards and guidelines; 2) potential buyers can conduct 'first article testing' of oil spill response equipment before accepting delivery to ensure that it performs to manufacturers specifications; 3) and equipment performance data is used by response planners to provide realistic information when developing oil spill contingency plans.

Ohmsett's operational costs are fully funded by industry, the money is appropriated from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund that was established under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. The fund receives revenue from a five cent tax on each barrel of oil produced or imported into the United States. By paying into the fund as required by the law, oil companies are supporting research to improve oil spill response capabilities.

In the past, Ohmsett was used almost exclusively to test and evaluate mechanical oil spill skimmers and containment booms. However, new types of research are being conducted at Ohmsett to increase the facility's use. These include testing and evaluation of remote sensing systems, evaluation of chemical emulsion breakers, and training of response personnel.

For fiscal year 1998, an ambitious test schedule is planned to cover the full gamut of research opportunities: boom and skimmer systems, remote sensor tests, chemical emulsion breakers, evaluation of USCG JUNIPER class buoy tender Spilled Oil Response System (SORS), training of response personnel, and evaluation of sorbent products. Ohmsett is available on a reimbursable basis for use by industry, academia, government agencies, and the public.

Another major area of activity is training. For several years, Ohmsett has offered Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response training and Confined Space Entry training, tailored to meet the specific needs of its clients. The USCG and U.S. Navy use Ohmsett to train their emergency response personnel. The MMS recently entered into an agreement with Texas A&M University's National Spill Control School to conduct a series of Oil Spill Response-Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response training courses at Ohmsett. These hands-on boom and skimmer sessions are designed for response personnel and will use real oil—which no other test tank facility in North America can do.

USGS Offers Flagstaff Teachers Unique Earth Science Training

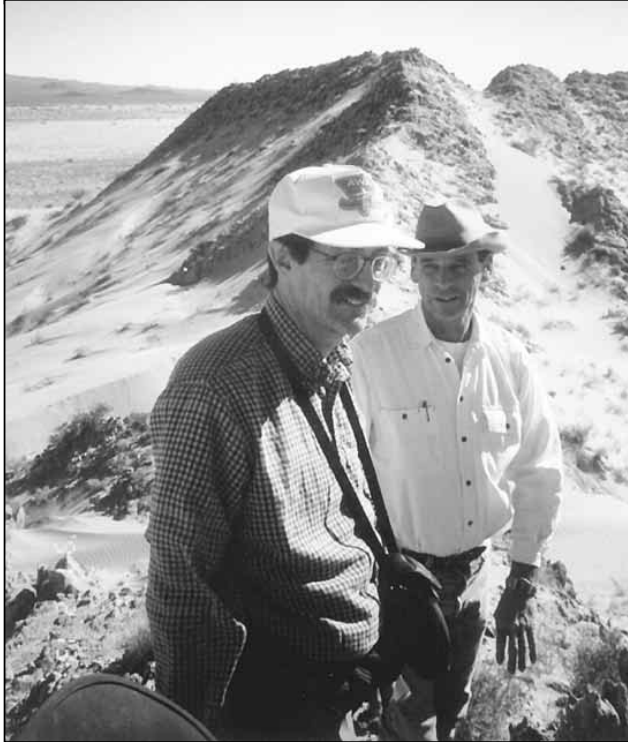
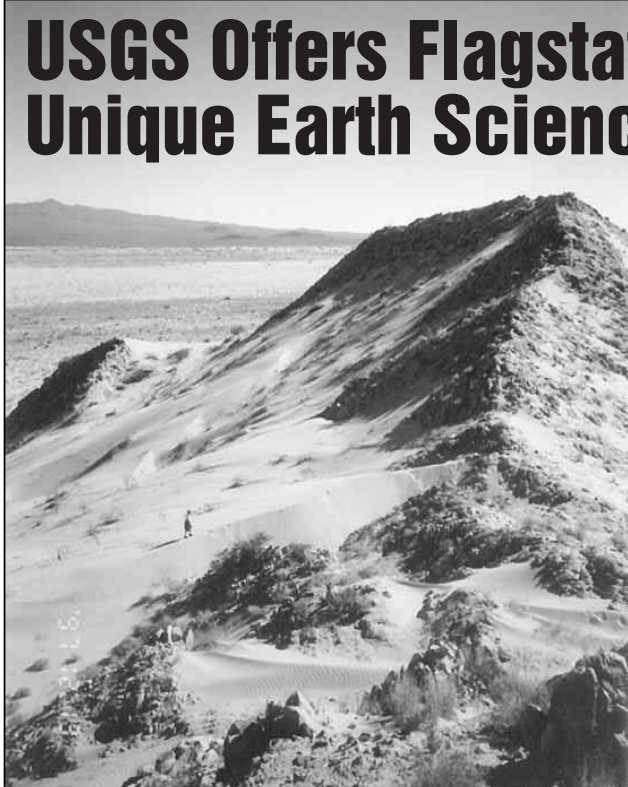
Sue Priest

They ventured across the U.S.-Mexican border into northern Sonora, and set up a base camp in a rugged landscape of volcanic craters. To the west lay the *Gran Desierto*. The next day, the group made a seven-mile, round-trip trek across the largest sand sheet in North America to the Buried Range—mountains that are being inundated by encroaching sands. After an unusual wet spell, thanks to a hurricane, the normally barren dunes were covered with fields of blooming wildflowers.

On top of the Buried Range, the ecstatic teachers could see the glimmer of the Gulf of California and Baja in the distance. As one hardy camper remarked, “It’s inspiring to be with scientists who love what they are doing. I learned more in three days than in a college semester.”

The 8th annual Teachers Workshop, hosted by the employees of the U.S. Geological Survey’s Flagstaff Field Center in Arizona, has succeeded in promoting the work of the USGS while providing a valuable educational service to local earth science teachers.

The Sonora field trip, which was joined by three geologists from the Institute of Geology in Hermosillo,



After a three mile trek across the Gran Desierto sand sheet, workshop hardies ascend the Buried Range. The Sierra Pinacate lies on the far horizon.

Mexico, studied the Pinacate Volcanic Field which is known for its maar volcanoes—among the largest in size and concentration in the world. Three spectacular maars, Molina, McDougal, and Sykes Craters, were visited. The aim of the workshop is to enhance educators’ backgrounds in geology and help them feel more comfortable teaching the subject in their classrooms. High school, middle and elementary school science teachers receive professional development credit for the workshop.

The annual workshop begins with USGS scientists deciding on a geologic topic or region to focus on, within a day’s drive from Flagstaff. Some past themes have been extensional terranes (related rock formations) of west-central Arizona, geology of the lower Grand Canyon-Lake Mead area, the Uinkaret Plateau—Arizona Strip, and the silicic volcanics of west-central New Mexico.

This year the workshop focused on the unusual volcanics of the Pinacate Volcanic Field and extensive aeolian sand sheets of the *Gran Desierto* of northern Sonora. Prior to the December trip, several USGS personnel took a dry-run to evaluate logistics, travel time, and stops, and to determine a campsite suitable for 35-40 people. A field guide for each participant is also prepared.

The Resource Center for Environmental Education, a local non-profit group which offers presentations on environmental, cultural, and natural science topics to schools in Coconino County, coordinates teacher notification, school district accreditation, and school board approval for the 25 to 30 participants. The number is limited by seating capacity in USGS field vehicles at the Flagstaff Field Center. Teachers sign up for the

Flagstaff science teachers and USGS volunteers enjoy a wind-swept vista from the rim of Sykes Crater in the Pinacate Volcanic Field.



In the piney woods a few yards away from the site of an infamous Civil War prison camp, construction workers are putting the finishing touches on a new museum honoring the 800,000 Americans who have known the horrors of being prisoners of war—from the Revolution to the Persian Gulf.

NATIONAL PRISONER OF WAR MUSEUM DEDICATION SET

Dedication ceremonies for the **National Prisoner of War Museum**, scheduled for April 9, are expected to draw thousands of surviving American POWs, many of whom helped to finance the \$5.8 million memorial that is located on the grounds of Andersonville National Historic Site.

“For many former POWs from World War II and Korea, it may be the last time in their lives to reunite with others who shared their life-altering experience,” said **Fred Boyles**, superintendent of the national historic site.

Construction of the 10,000-square-foot museum began in July 1996, although the idea’s roots date to 1970 when Congress added the historic Civil War prison site at Andersonville to the national park system as a memorial to all POWs throughout America’s history.

Funding for the building and exhibits was raised through a partnership involving the National Park Service, the American Ex-Prisoners of War, an organization made up of 20,000 former POWs, and a park support group known as the Friends of Andersonville. Originally known as Camp Sumter, the prison held more than 45,000 Union soldiers during its 14-month existence near the end of the Civil War.

Almost 13,000 prisoners died of disease or malnutrition, and the camp’s commandant, Capt. Henry Wirz, was executed for war crimes at the end of the war. Park Superintendent: Fred Boyles can be contacted at (912) 924-0343. The public affairs contact is Paul Winegar, (404) 562-3182; the American Ex-POWs contact is John Edwards, (518) 393-3907.

workshop on a first come-first served basis with preference given to those who teach high school geology and earth science, followed by those who teach high school and middle school physical science, and then other interested educators. The slots fill quickly and there is always a waiting list.

The workshop begins with two evenings of lectures held at the USGS Flagstaff Field Center. Survey scientists present talks, hands-on activities, and geologic interpretations related to the field trip. This year, **Wendell Duffield**, a retired volcanologist from Volcano Hazards Team, spoke on the volcanic history of the Pinacate, including formation of its extraordinary number of maar volcanoes. The Pinacate can be compared in many ways to the San Francisco Volcanic Field of northern Arizona.

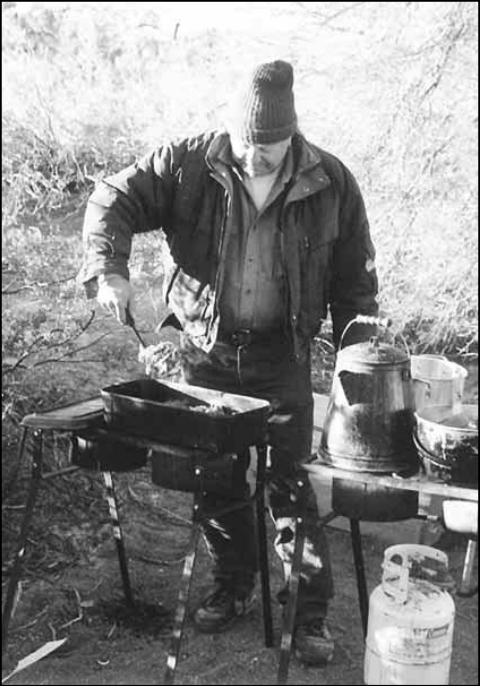
Dave MacKinnon, physical scientist with the Astrogeology Team, used the USGS General Interest Publication *Deserts* and his experience in desert processes to talk about dune forms and the largest sand sheet in North America—the *Gran Desierto*. **Ed Pfeifer**, Office of Program Support, has a great interest in the cultural history of the area and briefed participants on the vicinity’s early exploration and commonly traveled historical routes. “The speakers are well prepared, interesting, and easy to understand,” a teacher commented.

The workshop culminates with a three- or four-day field trip to reinforce material covered in the lectures. The excursion gives teachers an opportunity to spend time interacting with scientists in the field, learn field techniques and methods, improve observation skills, and see first hand a variety of geologic structures, terranes, and in situ rock sequences. As much as anything else, they love the chance to collect rocks and minerals to use in their classrooms.

These low-cost trips are not big on amenities. Participants sleep on the ground, eat meals cooked over an open fire, and a homemade ‘throne’ over a hole in the ground constitutes toilet facilities. USGS provides supplies, vehicles, and staff who volunteer weekend time and are otherwise paid field per diem rates. Money for food is pooled by all. USGS people make up a menu, shop for groceries, and prepare all meals on site—a feat in itself. Master chefs **John Hendricks** and **Gordon Swann**, both retired USGS geologists, cook up a darn good dutch oven meal for 40.

After four days of driving, hiking and campfires, everyone is ready to go home and shower. New contacts have been made, new activities and material are waiting to get worked into classroom curriculum, and USGS scientists have renewed faith that some student will want to become a geologist after hearing about all the wonderful things their teachers learned! “These workshops are a great opportunity to learn with and from the experts.” a high school science teacher said. “It’s often the only annual forum for many participants and provides good communication among teachers and USGS personnel.”

Sue Priest is a geologist with the USGS Earthquake Hazards Team at the Flagstaff Field Center in Arizona.



John Hendricks, a retired USGS geophysicist, cooks machaca, a shredded beef dish, for breakfast.

The Hudson Casino Controversy

Secretary Urges Employees to Remain Focused; Vows Complete Vindication

In response to Attorney General Janet Reno's decision to seek an independent counsel to look into the Department's Hudson Casino decision, Secretary Babbitt vowed to continue to fight for his environmental and American Indian agenda, urged Interior employees not to be distracted by the controversy, pledged full cooperation with the investigation, and said he and the Department would be completely vindicated.



Reno announced on Feb. 11 that she had decided to ask a judicial panel to appoint an outside prosecutor to investigate the veracity of Secretary Babbitt's statements to congress and the Department's handling of a controversial off-reservation Indian gaming proposal. She limited the scope of the inquiry to the Secretary's statements and Interior's rejection of the proposed casino at a failing dog track in Hudson, Minnesota. Reno's decision followed a preliminary Justice department inquiry into the matter requested by Congressional leaders.

"Obviously, I'm disappointed by the Attorney General's decision," Babbitt said. "The Department's decision was the

right one, made on the merits for the right reasons. Those who made the decision have testified unanimously that they were not influenced by improper political pressure." Backers of the project charged that the rejection was improperly influenced by campaign contributions from opponents of the proposal.

BROADSIDED & BOTTOMLINED, BUT BATTLING BACK

Several hundred employees filled the auditorium of the Main Interior Building on Feb. 13, and thousands of others watched over closed-circuit TV, to hear Secretary Babbitt thank them for their support and urge them to remain focused on their efforts. The text of his remarks follows.

Thank you. This has been a truly extraordinary progression over the last few weeks and months. I just want all of you to know how much I appreciate the notes, words of encouragement, the employees of the Department who have come up to me...saying, "We're with you. We're in this together," offering words of encouragement. I had that by phone, by notes, in person, on street corners, in airports, again, and again, and again. I want to tell you it really makes a difference. Thank you, thank you, thank you. (Applause)

Now I know that these are strange times. There is a corrosive, antagonistic, bitter, combative culture that has settled over this town. And, I must express my puzzlement and amazement at what's going on here, because for the last four months we have been, in varying degrees, the subject of an inquiry by a Senate investigating committee, a House investigating committee, backed up by endless document requests in which we have produced every scrap of paper from every corner of this Department, followed by an inquiry by the Justice Department and the FBI. All the participants in the decision-making process have been interviewed, deposed, harassed, and yet it goes on.

I think you are all entitled to ask what is it that has created this extraordinary kind of situation, where the facts are not enough. That's the bottom line, the facts are not enough. We've taken the position for the past three months that we have put all the facts out. They are out. They've been out, again, and again, and again. But the bottom line is that in the culture of this town, at this time, we happen to be in the intersection of some strange, strange times in which many members of the press will not take the facts—determined to say, "We have a point of view which is not going to be altered by the facts in any way." There are people on Capital Hill, more typically I suppose than the press, taking that position as well, that, "We will not be swayed by the facts."

Well, here we are. Here I am. And here I'm going to stay. (Applause) Sure it has not been the easiest time of my life. It's not been easy for (George) Skibine and (Tom) Hartman...and all the others who have been hauled up to the Hill again, and again, and again and raked over the coals. Something really is out of whack in this system of ours, where we simply say the facts will not suffice and we will pile one investigative process on top of another and just keep going on endlessly. Clearly, the times are out of sync and so is the system. But let me say to you as I point that out, that I have absolute confidence in the ultimate result in our system—as tangled up as it gets, as difficult and as unfettered as it can be—I have no question at all about the ability of our system to produce, in the end, absolute vindication for this Department and me. (Applause)

And I can tell you it has been tempting at times to throw it all up and say, you know, "To hell with it; it's not worth it, I'm going home." But I never will because I am bound



Secretary Babbitt is greeted by the audience at the February 13th Campfire meeting.



Babbitt called the crux of the dispute "a disagreement between two people about the exact words spoken in a meeting they had alone two years ago. We've each told our version and we disagree. There's nothing else to say about it. My attorneys say it can't possibly form the basis of any legal charges." In an interview with columnist matt Miller, the Secretary described the controversy as a 'Kafkaesque' experience.

"If it's true that only an independent counsel can resolve a matter like this if it involves a cabinet secretary, then I think the list of hidden costs one has to pay for public service has just grown a little longer," the Secretary reflected. "I've spent 23 years of public service without a blemish on my reputation. "While this investigation proceeds, I intend to continue my work as Secretary of the Interior to further the Clinton Administration's goals for the American people—protecting wildlife, habitat, public lands, National Parks, endangered species, and water resources, while promoting Indian welfare."

and determined to stay with you and vindicate this Department and this process—that you made in this case the right decision in the right way for the right reasons. And I'm here and I'm going to fight this out to the bitter end. And we will be vindicated.

OK, so what do we do from here? Number one, obviously, it is my intention to cooperate with every investigator, every person. I know you all will too. We will do everything within our power to continue to be transparent, open, to reaffirm what we've done from day one. That is to say, the facts. The facts. We will always be offering the facts for the second, third, fourth, fifth time because the facts will vindicate us.

Now, secondly, and importantly, we owe it to this Administration and to the American people not to be distracted by what is going on. Life is not always fair. Everyone goes through times in life when things don't go exactly right. Sometimes you're in an intersection at the wrong time and the wrong place, and you get broadsided through no fault of your own. We've all been through those experiences. The important thing is not to be deterred—to get up, look life in the eye, and say, "We're here for a reason. We're here devoting a large portion of our lives and our talents because we believe that what we do in public service in this Department makes a difference."

I'd like to remind you that over the last five or six years, we've really begun a brand new chapter in conservation, in resource history. If you'll allow me a minute or two, I'd like to explain because this Department for 150 years has been sort of caught between two polar beliefs. One is that our God-given resources on this continent, in this country, are ready to be used indiscriminately, and used and used up. And another view saying that we have a deeper ethical obligation to take care of creation.

I think what we've done in the last five-going-on six years is to say, "There's a better way of living on this landscape." We can make regulatory environmental laws work consistent with making a living. The Endangered Species Act can be made to work, if we have the imagination, flexibility, and creativity to say, "There's no reason we can't live in balance, in harmony, with creation." And that's all coming true.

The efforts of the regulatory agencies—Surface Mining, the Minerals Management Service—are devoted simply to saying, "We can find that balance out on the land." The land management agencies, the National Park Service—where we say national parks are to be used, they are for people. We don't buy the idea that there are too many people out there. We believe that we can protect and utilize the resource by being smarter and more effective about what we do. What we've done with water management out West, what we're doing for the Everglades, the California-Bay Delta, our forest policy—we're saying, "We can use science and imagination." What we're doing with Native Americans—what we're saying is, "Yes, we have a trust obligation for Native Americans that extends all the way to integrating their tradition, their cultures, and the beauty of their way of life into the larger mission on the landscape of this our entire Department."

Continued on the bottom of next page



Employees respond to Secretary Babbitt's comments about the Hudson Casino controversy. Many employees wore 'Friends of Bruce Babbitt' buttons and lapel stickers. Photos by Tami Heilemann, ISC



BABBITT DEFENDS DECISION ON HUDSON CASINO

The following article is reprinted with permission from the January 30, 1998, Minneapolis Star Tribune.

By Greg Gordon
Minneapolis Star Tribune

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, accusing House Republicans of pushing “half-baked...conspiracy theories,” hotly denied [Jan. 29] that politics tainted his agency’s rejection of a proposed Indian gaming casino in Hudson, Wis.

“You can manufacture all the conspiracies you want,” Babbitt told Rep. Dan Burton, R-Indiana, chairman of the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee. “At the end of the day, the facts are the facts.” During five and a half hours of testimony before the panel, Babbitt launched a fierce defense against allegations of improper political influence days before Attorney General Janet Reno is due to decide whether an independent counsel should be sought to investigate him.

Babbitt charged that Florida gaming president Fred Havenick, who hoped to reverse huge losses at his Hudson greyhound track by forming a casino partnership with three Chippewa bands, had persuaded House Republicans to “turn a blind eye to the facts” and pursue “a conspiracy theory worthy of Oliver Stone.”

While lobbyists seeking to block the casino were “floating around” Washington, Babbitt said, Havenick’s group was “just as big and determined and scuzzy as the guys on the other side.” Havenick, who was in the audience, told reporters he was “outraged” by the remark and accused Babbitt of trying to create a “smokescreen to get the attention off...a gross miscarriage of justice.”

Accompanied by former White House counsel Lloyd Cutler, Babbitt sought to put to rest a controversy that has so tarnished his reputation that he conceded that his once-considerable prospects for a Supreme Court nomination may be dead. Babbitt’s appearance culminated four days of hearings by Burton’s committee, which is investigating allegations that the administration killed the casino in return for as much as \$400,000 in campaign donations from Minnesota and Wisconsin tribes opposed to the proposal.

Testimony from a dozen witnesses, however, provided little evidence to advance allegations that the three poverty stricken Chippewa bands were treated unfairly by the government. Just as the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee reached an impasse during its inquiry into the Hudson case last fall, the House committee was unable to show that

lobbyists for the opposing tribes actually influenced the White House or Interior Department. A third panel, the House Resources Committee, which has jurisdiction over Indian affairs, has opened its own investigation.

Rep. Henry Waxman, D-California, the Government Reform committee ranking Democrat, said testimony from career civil servants involved in the matter produced “no evidence whatsoever that the decision was made for any other reason than on the merits.” Burton, obviously frustrated, acknowledged that the committee had compiled a “circumstantial” case but contended that the events surrounding the decision were compelling enough to warrant a special prosecutor.

He recited a series of approaches to then-Deputy White House Chief of Staff Harold Ickes by lobbyists for the opposing tribes, including one by lawyer Thomas Schneider on May 16, 1995. Two days later, Burton noted, a Babbitt aide informed the White House that the Department had made a preliminary decision to reject the casino. “Maybe there is no criminal activity,” Burton said, “but we have enough to prove there ought to be somebody to investigate this very thoroughly.”

Babbitt said, however, that because of opposition from the city of Hudson, the casino application was “controversial and troubled from the moment its consideration began. I think a fair-minded person looking at the record would say the Department of the Interior did an outstanding job managing this issue and the process really worked.” He said that the only White House contacts were “status” checks routinely made to respond to “an avalanche” of congressional inquiries. He neither spoke with White House officials nor discussed the case with his top aides, he said. Babbitt quipped that he owed his “quality time” before the committee to his mistakes in agreeing to meet on July 14, 1995—the day the casino decision was issued—with Paul Eckstein, an old friend, law partner, and political ally who was hired by Havenick and the Chippewas.

Eckstein later testified that, during their discussion, Babbitt told him that Ickes had ordered that the decision be issued that day and remarked that “these tribes” had donated about \$500,000 to the Democratic party. Babbitt first denied ever mentioning Ickes’ named in a 1996 letter to Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., but got into trouble when he amended that position in a later letter to Sen. Fred Thompson, R-Tenn., the chairman of the Government Affairs Committee. He told Thompson that he had concocted his contact with Ickes as a way of politely sending his friend on his way. Babbitt, whose truthfulness has been a major focus of a preliminary FBI inquiry, has denied discussing campaign contributions.

Excerpts from Secretary Babbitt’s Jan. 29 Testimony to the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee

. . . This was not, as some have portrayed it, a “rich tribe, poor tribe” saga. This casino application was a business proposition developed by a well-financed out-of-state gambling company . . . headed by a Democratic party contributor, [that] hired its own lobbyists and tried to capitalize on an old friendship with me to push through a deficient application over the legitimate objections of the surrounding community.

. . . the decision to reject the application was based on the law, consistent with department practice, and was never opposed by any staff member in the department’s Washington headquarters. The law passed by Congress properly makes it more difficult for an off-reservation casino to be approved. It also requires us to give great weight to the sentiments of the local community . . .

Not a single person in the Washington office ever recommended approval of the Hudson Casino application. And no one in the Washington office ever wrote a memorandum recommending approval . . . The decision to reject the application was in full accord with the recommendation of the senior career civil servant, **George Skibine** . . . the principal remaining issue was not whether to deny the application but whether to rest the denial on the Indian reorganization act, the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, or both.

In the Hudson case the opposition of the surrounding community was widespread, legitimate, and bipartisan. Community political leaders, including many members of Congress, expressed their opposing views . . . not a single member of Congress went on record in support of the Hudson application. The gambling interests financing the application knew about the deficiencies in their application. But they could not overcome the community opposition problem because they were anchored to Hudson by their interest in bailing out their failing dog track.

. . . the participants inside the decision-making process based their decision on the merits of the case, and the questionable behavior of lobbyists on both sides of this issue did not affect the decision. If the allegations are correct that the lobbyists who opposed the application attempted to inject improper political considerations into Interior’s decision-making process, they failed. As the testimony before you has

shown, the Interior officials involved in the decision were unaware of, and therefore could not possibly have been influenced by, any of the improper political arguments that advocates of the opposing tribes are reported to have made.

I was personally unaware of any such improper political efforts by the opposing tribes, as were the other Interior officials who actually participated in deciding the Hudson matter . . . I was unaware of communications the lobbyists for the opposing tribes are alleged to have had with the President and his advisors in the White House . . . But I must acknowledge my own mistake . . . when I granted the casino lobbyist’s last-minute request to meet with me.

On July 11, 1995, as the department was close to announcing the decision to deny the application, I received a telephone call from an old friend and former law partner, **Paul Eckstein**, who had been hired by the gambling company supporting the application. Mr. Eckstein asked to meet with me. I asked one of my counselors, **John Duffy**, to meet with him. Mr. Duffy met with Mr. Eckstein on July 14, the earliest date Mr. Eckstein could get to Washington.

Later that day, Mr. Eckstein asked to see me without an appointment. When I reluctantly agreed to meet with him, he told me that Mr. Duffy had said the rejection decision was imminent. He then asked me to delay it so that his clients could make a final presentation to me. I declined. Unfortunately, I made up an excuse in an effort to end the meeting. To the best of my recollection, I said that **Harold Ickes** wanted or expected the department to make a decision promptly. It was indulgent of me to see Mr. Eckstein and it was a mistake to invoke Harold Ickes’ name. The fact is I never spoke with Mr. Ickes about the Hudson matter, and I shouldn’t have given Mr. Eckstein any reason to suppose that I had. I regret the remark. It was a mistake. But that’s all it was . . .

The test of the department’s actions in the Hudson decision should not be what was said or done outside the decision-making process by private individuals who had a vested interest in the decision. The test should be what was said and done inside the process by those who have a responsibility to serve the public interest. Those individuals have testified before you and have vouched for the integrity of their actions in the Hudson matter. Mr. Chairman, and Members of the Committee, with a clear and certain conscience, so do I. Thank you.

Continued from the previous page

These are all important things that we do...as we rededicate ourselves to using the time that we have...our time no matter how long is very short... it is very important. We are here to make a difference. And what I want you to know is that as a result of all of this chaos of the last three months, I’ve had a lot of time to ponder, to think a little more deeply with my family, with our sons...about what really matters in life,

how it is we set priorities, straighten up our relations with each other, look deeply into ourselves, and dedicate ourselves to being better human beings.

I come to you today to say that it has been the greatest pleasure of my life to work with and to serve all the people over the last few years and I vow to you today that I am going to continue and...I thank you for your friendship, your support, your dedication.



science for a changing world

Thomas J. Casadevall, Acting Director
Rebecca Phipps and Bob
Reynolds, Bureau Editors

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USGS PEOPLE

Casadevall Named Acting Director

Tom Casadevall, a volcanologist, is the new acting director of the USGS. Tom is recognized worldwide as a leading authority on volcanic hazards and aviation safety. Since April 1996, he has served as regional director of the Western Region of USGS. The new assignment became effective Feb. 1.

Tom earned his B.A. degree in geology from Beloit College (1969) and M.A. (1974) and Ph.D. degrees (1976) in geology and geochemistry from Pennsylvania State University. After serving one year as a USGS-National Research Council postdoctoral research associate and one year as an adjunct professor at the *Escuela Politecnica Nacional* in Quito, Ecuador, where he taught geochemistry and volcanology, Tom joined the USGS as a staff geochemist in 1978.

His career with the USGS has included assignments at all three volcano observatories—Hawaii, Cascades, and Alaska—and in the USGS-Volcanological Survey of Indonesia cooperative program. He has also served as project chief for studies of geology and mineral deposits of the western San Juan Mountains in Colorado and as assistant chief of the Branch of Volcano and Geothermal Processes. Tom has written more than 90 publications in his areas of expertise.



At far right, wearing a cap, is Tom Casadevall, the new acting director of the USGS.

Ray Herrmann Elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science

Gail Keirn

Dr. Ray Herrmann, a physical scientist with the USGS's Midcontinent Ecological Science Center in Fort Collins, Colorado, was inducted as a Fellow into the American Association for the Advancement of Science during its annual meeting in Philadelphia. Herrmann, whose research specializes in watershed and ecological resources management in protected landscapes such as national parks, was recognized for his leadership in communicating the importance and results of watershed investigations.



Ray Herrmann

Each year, AAAS elects members to this position whose "efforts on behalf of the advancement of science or its applications are scientifically or socially distinguished." To mark his geologic and hydrologic research, Herrmann received a certificate and rosette as part of the AAAS Fellows Forum ceremony on Feb. 14.

Herrmann has been instrumental in the development and coordination of the USGS's National Park Service Watershed Ecosystems Program. This program supports national and international investigations into watersheds and their nature, protection, and use on public lands, and furthers the scientific understanding of ecosystems by studying change as a result of natural or human-derived stress.

Important watershed research is conducted in eleven national parks throughout the United States. All sites contain small (less than 200 hectares) "natural" study watersheds that are sensitive to disturbance. Scientists from several agencies and universities monitor each site's vegetation, weather, precipitation, and water quality. The research also includes studies of the structure and function of ecosystems and their responses to disturbances, such as atmospheric contaminants (acid rain) and global climate change.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science is the largest general scientific society in the world, representing all the scientific and engineering disciplines. Its 144,000 members worldwide include scientists and engineers, as well as policy makers, educators, journalists, and students.

MORE USGS NEWS

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Heavy Rains, High Flows Swamp CA; Set Flow Records in NY & MD

Ward Freedman, Gerard Butch, Gary Fisher, Dale Cox

While the heaviest El Niño-driven storms 1997-98 pounded California last month, causing widespread flooding that resulted in many deaths, other El Nino-induced storms caused widespread tornado damage in Florida and dumped record rainfall along the East Coast. USGS workers across the nation where rains fell and streams rose worked throughout the storms in often dangerous conditions to make accurate streamflow measurements.

Heavy rain storms sent USGS scientists to rivers and streams throughout California to measure the above normal flows. USGS hydrologists reported small stream flooding from Ventura County in the south to Eureka in the north. The floodwaters that inundated parts of Palo Alto on Feb. 3, for example, were caused in part by a record flow of 7,100 cubic feet per second in the San Francisquito Creek. The USGS gauging station above Palo Alto that recorded the flow has operated at that site since 1930. The closest previous top flows were in 1955 and 1983—between 5,500 and 6,000 cfs. The daily average flow at the gauge in the summer months of 1996 was only a few tenths of a cfs.

To measure streams, USGS field crews hang weighted measuring devices over bridges into the swollen streams or while hanging from small cable cars. "You are about 15 feet above the raging waters in a cable car with a 100-pound weight, your feet dangling over the water. It can get scary," said **William Bolts**, a USGS hydrologic technician. "We have concerns for our people in the field during times of flooding," said USGS hydrologist **Robert Meyer**, who is based in Sacramento, one of the hardest hit areas in California. "On the one hand, it is critical to have the accurate data to save lives, but the on the other, collecting the data can be extremely dangerous."



The USGS operates and maintains more than 7,000 stream gauges throughout the nation. The information that is collected and analyzed by USGS hydrologists is used by flood forecasters and the National Weather Service to make accurate flood predictions. The forecasters need to understand streamflow, or discharge, to accurately warn the public. To determine discharge, hydrologists need to know stream channel capacity, which is always changing. Therefore, streams must be measured often, especially during high flow periods when the channel is most apt to change.

USGS scientists are also monitoring landslide hazards in California, using realtime stations that transmit data on rainfall, pressure, soil moisture, and movement. The information, which is accessible through the Internet and by pager, can warn communities of future movement that could endanger homes, businesses, roads, utilities, and bridges. "Soil moisture levels are high and rising, and they'll probably keep on rising," said **Rick LaHusen**, a USGS volcano hazards expert in Vancouver, Washington. The monitoring technology is similar to that used on volcanoes.

El Niño-driven storms were setting records across the nation. Widespread flooding occurred throughout New York as a result of heavy rain and snowmelt between Jan. 7 and 13. Record flows were recorded at USGS streamflow gauging stations located in the Black, Upper Hudson, and West Branch Oswegatchie Rivers. The Black River crested at a record 16 feet and 55,000 cubic feet per second at Watertown on Jan. 10, the highest flow since 1869. Peak flows at stations along the Hudson River near Newcomb, North Creek, and Ft. Edward were the highest since 1949. The peak flow of the West Branch Oswegatchie River at Harrisville was the highest since at least 1916.

In the Albany area, peak flows at stations on Schoharie Creek, the Mohawk River, and the Hudson River at Green Island and Albany were less than the peaks recorded during the January 1996 flood. Peak flows were recorded, however, at a number of stations elsewhere in the state including three that exceeded the 100-year flood recurrence level at Newcomb on the Hudson River, Watertown on the Black River, and Harrisville on the West Branch of the Oswegatchie River.

In the mid-Atlantic region, flow of the Potomac River near Washington, D.C. and total freshwater inflow to the Chesapeake Bay were the second highest on record, exceeded only by flows in January, 1996. Hydrologists state that the generally wetter than normal conditions increase the likelihood of flooding from storms that may follow. Normal flow of the Potomac in January is about 7.3 bgd (billion gallons a day). Flow in January averaged about 25 bgd, or about 343 percent of normal flow for this time of year. Records have been kept at the Potomac River near Washington, D.C. streamgauge since 1930. Normal average daily flow into the Chesapeake Bay in January is about 57.6 bgd. In January, the flow averaged about 129 bgd, or about 224 percent of normal. Records of total flow into the bay have been kept since 1951.

USGS Leads U.S. Delegation to UN Conference on Geographic Names

Roger L. Payne

The USGS Office of Geographic Names recently participated in the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York City. The conference, which is held every five years, was attended by more than 125 delegates from 60 countries.

The USGS headed the delegation of ten from the United States, which was composed of representatives from the National Imaging and Mapping Agency (NIMA), Bureau of the Census, Library of Congress, and the State Department, as well as USGS. The Board of Geographic Names is responsible by law for standardizing geographic names and their spellings throughout the Federal Government.

The core delegation—from USGS and NIMA—participated in the various activities and working groups on topics such as automation, training, and data transfer. The Jan. 13-22 conference emphasized international standardization of names by encouraging strong programs of national standardization based upon principles, policies, and procedures in the form of resolutions that are then adopted and promoted by the United Nations.

These national programs (now in more than 40 countries) support activities such as emergency preparedness, commerce, local and regional planning, peace keeping, tourism, and the preservation of cultural heritage. The conference also includes a vigorous program of training that the USGS has played a considerable role in designing, developing, and implementing. The U.S. program has been used as a model for the development of similar programs in other nations.



USGS Open House is Coming!

Mark your calendars now for Open House at USGS in Reston, Va., Saturday and Sunday, April 25-26. A 5K race and 2K fun run at 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning will kick off a fun-filled weekend of hands-on-activities, exhibits, tours, and events focused on volcanoes, dinosaurs, maps, floods, nature, earthquakes, and more.

The USGS National Center, located at 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive in Reston, will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 12 noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. For more information, check our web page at <<http://www.usgs.gov/openhouse>> or call (703) 648-5000 for general Open House information. For details on the 5K race and 2K fun run, call (703) 648-6565



As students from Flandreau Indian School watch, Principal Ron Gourneau signs an educational and cultural partnership agreement with Don Lauer, the chief of the USGS Earth Resources Observation Systems Data Center, and USGS Associate Director Barb Ryan.

INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE: A USGS-BIA CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

Mark Barber

To improve the educational experience of each and every student is the goal of a recent agreement signed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs Flandreau Indian School and the USGS. Under the new agreement, the USGS will provide the school with resources that will improve the quality of education in the earth and physical sciences, mathematics, and the computer sciences.

Native American students, their teachers, and Earth scientists from sister agencies in the Department have crossed agency boundaries in South Dakota to forge this educational partnership that promotes learning, goodwill, and cultural diversity.

The Earth Resources Observation Systems (EROS) Data Center of the USGS and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Flandreau Indian School entered into an agreement on Jan. 22 to share cultural and technological resources to improve learning and advance cultural diversity.

The BIA Flandreau Indian School, established in 1871 as part of a church mission, is located 30 miles north of Sioux Falls in southeast South Dakota. The school boards 350 students in grades 9-12 from states as far east as Michigan, and from every state west of South Dakota. Purchased by the government in 1883, the school was originally named the Riggs Boarding School, in honor of an early church missionary to the area, Stephen Riggs. Three students became the first class to graduate from the school in 1898.

“This partnership will give us an opportunity not only for our students to learn, but also for our teachers to broaden their horizons,” said Flandreau **Principal Ron Gourneau**. “Without staff development, education takes a second seat. This agreement will help us tremendously.”

“Secretary Babbitt has challenged the USGS to look for opportunities to become partners with other Interior bureaus,” USGS **Associate Director Barb Ryan** said. “And we are delighted to have this opportunity to team up with the Flandreau School.”

“Our goal is to forge a bond with the Flandreau Indian School,” explained EROS chief **Don Lauer**. “We look forward to showing teachers and students not only what we provide to the nation and the world by way of aerial photos and satellite images of the Earth, but also how these data are used. Science is real and it plays a role in our daily lives. Making it real for the Flandreau students is our goal.”

Flandreau teachers will receive access to USGS earth science data, education materials, and training. They will be exposed to minds-on, hands-on approaches to teaching earth science, math, and computer science by participating in teacher training workshops and educational outreach programs such as Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) and EarthKAM.

The GLOBE Program is a worldwide science and education program coordinating the work of students, teachers, and scientists to study and understand the global environment. The mission of EarthKAM is to demonstrate how middle school students actively make observations of the Earth by using mounted digital cameras onboard the Space Shuttle to conduct scientific inquiry in support of their middle school curricula.

The EROS Data Center stores, manages, and distributes remotely sensed data from earth-observing satellites and high-altitude aircraft, digital cartographic data and other types of digital spatial data. Over the past 25 years, EROS staff have archived four million satellite images that cover the Earth’s surface and eight million aerial photos that cover the lower 48 states. EROS staff have developed many earth science data sets from these forms of remote sensing that land managers, planners, earth scientists, educators, conservationists, and economic developers use to explore our ever-changing Earth system.

USGS EDUCATION WEBSITE WINS AWARD

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Options Directory Window Help

Address: <http://www.educationindex.com/award.html>

Jim Cloern

A USGS Website devoted to “Water-Quality of the San Francisco Bay” was named “Outstanding Education-Related Website” by the Education Index. The Education Index is an annotated directory of the best education-related websites. It selects and honors only those sites that offer interesting, well-organized, reliable information.

The website, which was funded by the Integrated Natural Resource Science Program, is listed in the Environmental Science section of the Education Index. It details the water-quality component of USGS efforts to research the coastal ecosystems of the Bay area and how they are impacted by human disturbances.

For almost three decades USGS has maintained a program of research in San Francisco Bay. The program includes regular measurement of water quality along a 145-kilometer transect that spans the length of the entire estuarine system, from the South Bay to the Sacramento River. This website describes the measurement program and displays results of water quality measurements for chlorophyll, salinity, temperature, and light penetration.

Users can choose to see these variables plotted for recent measurements, see patterns of water quality change from 1993-1995 and for selected locations since 1977, and obtain tables of measurements. The site also includes full explanations of the measuring devices, summary of the program, glossary, bibliography, and many examples.

The Education Index is on the World Wide Web at <<http://www.educationindex.com/award.html>>. To find the award winning USGS website, click on the word Subject, then click on Environmental Science, then scroll down to the heading Water-Quality of the San Francisco Bay.

Spelunking

USGS STYLE

Cheryl O'Brien

What do eyeless worms, bacon formation draperies, and soda straw stalactites have in common? Do you know the difference between a troglobite, a troglone, and a troglodyte? Where do you go spelunking?

The answers to these and other questions can be found in the new USGS publication, *Exploring Caves*, a teaching packet for grades K-3. Produced in cooperation with the National Speleological Society, the teaching kit features a story to be read aloud that describes the adventures of Jenny and Carlos, two science camp friends who find themselves lost in a cave. With help from a talking bat, they learn about the formation of caves and about cave-dwelling creatures and their adaptations to life in the dark.

"Exploring Caves is a wonderful interdisciplinary teaching packet for K-3 that covers a variety of natural science topics including geology, hydrology, and biology," said **Bonnie McGregor**, USGS associate director. The read-aloud story and follow-up lesson plans will bring the world of caves to life for children."

The National Speleological Society is particularly pleased to have collaborated with the USGS on this teaching packet, according to **Barbara L. Moss**, chairperson of the Environmental Education Committee of the society. "As an elementary school reading teacher with a strong interest in environmental science, I was happy to play a



part in the development of this valuable guide," Moss added.

The packet includes a colorful, two-sided poster, a teaching guide, a list of multimedia resources on caves, and an instructional book with lesson plans and activities that correspond to Jenny's and Carlos' story. Copies of *Exploring Caves* and other USGS teaching packets can be obtained free of charge from USGS Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO, 80225. Requests can be faxed to (303) 202-4693, or ordered by e-mail at

<infoservices@usgs.gov>. Other teaching packets available are *What Do Maps Show?* for grades 4-7, *Global Change* for grades 4-6, *Map Adventures* for grades K-3, and *Exploring Maps* for grades 9-12.

Information on additional educational resources available from the USGS can be found on the USGS Learning Web at **<URL: <http://www.usgs.gov/education/>>**. Also visit **<URL: <http://www.usgs.gov/education/learnweb/caves/>>** to see when this packet will be available online.

FY99 Budget Request for USGS Emphasizes Clean Water, Disaster Information, Species-Habitat Research

The President has proposed a budget of \$806.9 million for the USGS in fiscal year 1999, reflecting a net increase of \$47.7 million over the FY98 enacted level for the USGS's unique interdisciplinary natural science capabilities.

Increases include \$16.5 million in support of the Administration's Clean Water and Watershed Restoration Initiative for a wide range of water-quality monitoring and watershed assessment activities; \$15 million for a multi-agency natural disaster information network hosted by the USGS; and \$11 million for species and habitat conservation studies in support of the nation's natural resource managers.

"Impartial scientific information is the foundation for effective policymaking," said Dr. Thomas Casadevall, acting USGS director. "As the Nation's primary natural science agency, the USGS is committed to responding to America's critical scientific, health, and economic concerns, such as the quality of the nation's water, increased understanding of species and habitats, and the safety of life and property in earthquakes, floods and other natural disasters."

"USGS is focusing on science that is relevant to the nation's needs and concerns," added Casadevall. "That is why USGS scientists are at work every day on issues of concern to every citizen across our country, using their expertise to establish solid baseline information that will benefit generations of Americans."

From identifying water quality threats associated with abandoned mine lands to determining the cause of bird die-offs in the Salton Sea, from understanding major ecosystems such as the Everglades, San Francisco Bay, and Chesapeake Bay to responding when natural disasters occur, every day the USGS is providing science for our changing world."

The FY 1999 budget proposal also includes a \$7.1 million savings from government reinvention initiatives. Highlights of the budget include:

A \$16.5 million increase to support the Clean Water and Watershed Restoration Initiative, which is designed to improve the **health of aquatic systems in all of the nation's watersheds**. USGS contributions will support federal, state, tribal and local government efforts to



The USGS provides crucial scientific information for natural resource and disaster management decision-makers at all levels of government and the private sector. As the Nation's natural science agency, the USGS has about 10,000 employees at work in every state and Puerto Rico, investigating issues of concern to every American, including nearly 2,000 local, state, regional and national organizations. Efforts range from about 45,000 water measuring stations crucial to making flood and water-supply forecasts, to 80,000 different maps of the country, as well as front-line earthquake and volcano monitoring networks and wildlife research at parks and refuges.

improve water quality. Specific components of the increase will enable USGS to evaluate nutrient loads and transport in major rivers and ground-water systems, including a specific focus on contributors to hypoxia and toxic algal blooms in the Gulf of Mexico.

Other components of the increase would allow USGS to determine the influence of land-use practices and pollution sources on **water quality and ecosystems of rivers and coastal estuaries**; provide data to help states determine the Total Maximum Daily Loads as required by the Clean Water Act; provide improved water-

quality monitoring and assessment for watersheds in our national parks; develop state geo-environmental maps that will help the Bureau of Land Management and other agencies plan for remediation of the effects of past mining practices on water quality; provide the Bureau of Reclamation with information that will improve its ability to manage water quality and biological resources in 20 high-priority Western watersheds; and assess optimal approaches for pesticide monitoring in water-wells.

A \$7 million increase to support the Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to provide information to the public on the **quality of drinking water** in 86 of America's major cities.

An increase of \$15 million for a multi-agency program for the **integration of natural disaster-related information and its dissemination to emergency managers** and others who can take action to reduce disaster losses. Robust computer and broadcast networks will be established that can operate during all phases of disaster management, along with a public/private partnership among those who manage or are affected by natural disasters.

An increase of \$11 million to **support species and habitat research** needed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and state and local agencies, in areas such as California's Salton Sea, with its continuing outbreaks of seabird and fish mortality.

In Arizona and New Mexico, the study focus will be on the effects of land-use practices on endangered species and migratory birds. USGS biologists will study the consequences of fire use to improve the ecosystem health of national wildlife refuges, and biologists will supply information on wetlands and uplands in support of the population and habitat goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Decision support systems and other tools will be developed to assist Department of the Interior public land and resource managers.

**USGS Flagstaff Field Center
Hosts Teacher Workshop, 9**

Office of Surface Mining



Kathy Karpan, Director
Jerry Childress, Bureau Editor
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Employee Recognition Program Honors More Than 70 Working Partners

OSM's Employee Recognition Program has honored five teams, five individuals for outreach efforts, and more than 70 working partners during 1997. The program's non-monetary awards recognize excellence among fellow employees as well as state workers, tribal representatives, and members of the public who participate with OSM in carrying out shared goals of protection and reclamation.

The 1997 Team Award winners are:

The Abandoned Mine Lands Design Workshop Team received a Team Award for developing five high quality technical training courses addressing: landslides, subsidence, dangerous highwalls, dangerous openings (vertical shafts and adits), and fires (underground/refuse burning). The workshops, which are taught to a diverse audience consisting of state, tribe, federal, citizen, and industry personnel, help to promote a more positive attitude between persons working in the AML programs across the nation.

Team members are **David Bucknam**, State of Colorado; **Eric Coberly**, State of West Virginia; **Ginger Kaldenbach**, OSM Denver; **Mike Kastl**, State of Oklahoma; **Nancy Roberts**, OSM Ashland, KY; **Mary Ann Wright**, State of Utah; **James Kennedy**, OSM Headquarters; **Ray Maits**, OSM Pittsburgh, PA; **William Morrison**, OSM retired; and **Don Stump**, OSM Pittsburgh, PA.

FOIA Program Decentralization Team—A key element of this initiative was to transfer the Solicitor review function from headquarters to the field, to streamline processes and enhance the ability to respond to Freedom of Information Act requests.

HOPÍ AML PROGRAM TEAM AWARD



Members of the Hopi Abandoned Mine Lands Department team include, from left, Yvonne Day, Emmett Nuvakuku, Norman Honie Jr., Patricia Seletstewa, and Ray Tsingine.

This award went to the Hopi Abandoned Mine Lands Department for its outstanding achievement in accomplishing the goals and objectives of the Abandoned Mine Land Program through public outreach to the community. In essence, the Hopi AML program has successfully pioneered the first Hopi AML Public Facilities Projects funded with Abandoned Mine Land funds. Specific accomplishments include restoring the Bacavi Village clan house and converting a donated church into the Moenkopi Village community center. The members of the team are:

Emmett Nuvakuku, the previous director of the Office of Mining and Mineral Resources, whose leadership and vision laid the ground work for such projects and first setup outreach meetings with the villages to explain the AML program, present an overview of how the program was setup, explain the availability of funds and the limitations and requirements for receiving such funds, and what the villages would have to agree to for each AML project to be funded and awarded;

Norman Honie, Jr., the new director of OMMR, who continued what Emmett started by improvising and making adjustments to obtain village interest and commitment toward these facilities projects and provided leadership and vision to the AML program;

Ray Tsingine, program manager, who planned and attended public outreach meetings to nurture and develop the trust and cooperation necessary to fund such facilities projects; **Yvonne Day**, contract supervisor, Office of Contract and Procurement, who was instrumental in overcoming obstacles to these types of projects including legal requirements, specifications, documentation, concurrences, and insuring that all tribal requirements were met and addressed; and **Patricia Seletstewa**, administrative secretary, Hopi AML, who did whatever it took to get things accomplished, volunteered as necessary, and took a personal interest in the success of the effort.

All five of these individuals donated their personal time to these outreach efforts as well as the projects themselves. Although not officially labeled a team, they in effect operated as a team to get these first facilities projects approved and funded. They continue to operate as a team to ensure that each of their projects is successful.



Inspection Strategy Team members include, from left in front row, Joe Blackburn, Tom Harrell, Dave Booth, Pam Carew, Gail Smith, Tom Koppe, Steve Cassel, and Mark Thompson. In back row, from left, are Keith Smith, Pat Angel, Robert Wittenback, Steve Hohman, John Chedester, Dave Nance, John Brame.



Members of the Drainage Control Special Study Team include, from left, Jeff Taylor, Charles Saylor, Gail Smith, and George Morgan. Ralph Blumer, Jesse Gilpin, and Paul Travis were unavailable for the photo.

Team members are **Russ Frum**, OSM Alton, IL; **Audrey Parker**, OSM Pittsburgh, PA; **Charlie Albrecht**, OSM Denver, CO; **Jennifer Shawe**, OSM Denver, CO; **Howard Strand**, OSM Denver, CO; **Louis Blasiotti**, OSM Washington D.C.; **Karen Guest**, OSM Washington D.C.; **Cheryl Sylvester**, OSM Washington D.C.; and **Delores Webster**, OSM Washington D.C.

Inspection Strategy Team—In November 1995, OSM's Lexington Field Office and the Kentucky Department for Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement formed a joint team to develop a new oversight strategy. Team members were selected to provide maximum representation and input and included professional and reclamation specialists from both agencies. The new approach is having a significant and immediate effect in improving the State regulatory program with the added benefit of strengthening State/Federal relationships in Kentucky.

Team members from OSM are **Joe Blackburn**, **Steve Cassel**, **Tom Harrell**, **Tom Koppe**, and **Gail Smith** (all of Lexington, KY); **Pat Angel**, **John Chedester**, and **Robert Wittenback** (all of London, KY). Team members from the State of Kentucky are **David Booth**, **John Brame**, **Pam Carew**, **Steve Hohmann**, **David Nance**, **Keith Smith**, and **Mark Thompson**.

Drainage Control Special Study Team—Following a series of citizen complaints which involved, in some cases, life threatening, property damaging 'washouts' from sediment ponds, the Drainage Control Special Study Team was developed. The team has reviewed five sites, completed reports on three, and is making a significant impact not only for citizens living in the coalfields but also in the review and analysis of sediment pond design to minimize offsite damage to the environment.

OSM team members are **Ralph Blumer** and **Gail Smith**, both of Lexington, KY; **Charles Saylor**, London, KY; and **George Morgan**, Pikeville, KY. State team members from Kentucky are **Jeff Taylor**, **Jesse Gilpin**, and **Paul Travis**.

The Burnham Mine Team is an interagency ad hoc group that was formed to work on successful completion of the reclamation at Consolidation Coal Company's (Consol) Burnham Mine on lands of the Navajo Nation near Farmington, New Mexico. Reclamation at the mine was completed in accordance with a 1995 Settlement Agreement that required certain activities to be completed by specific critical dates. Currently, the team is regularly monitoring the success of the reclamation to determine if additional work is needed.

Team Members are **Karen Jass**, **Bob Postle**, **Brenda Steele**, and **Joe Wilcox**, (all of OSM Denver, CO); **Morris Elliott** and **Gene Robinson** (both from OSM Casper, WY); **Ken Bahe**, Navajo Nation Minerals Department, AZ; **Russ Porter**, OSM Albuquerque, NM; and **Jerry Thomas**, BIA Shiprock Agency, NM.

State Program Amendment Team—Last year the team wrote a mission statement with goals that reflect and enhance the business lines and program outcomes for OSM in environmental protection, restoration, and reclamation. The team has accomplished its assignments in an environment that encourages participation, allows discussion and exploration of alternative actions, doesn't stifle disagreement, and decides outcomes only through consensus. The team has a strong sense of accomplishment and believes it is doing the best work possible for the benefit of the states, Indian tribes and the agency as a whole.

Team members from OSM's Denver Coordinating Center are **Barbara Bowerman**, **Randy Pair**, **Marcia Petta**, **Mike Russo**, **Susan Starcevich**, and **Dennis Winterringer**.

Next Issue—1997 Public Outreach Awards

Mission to Tanzania

John D. Gavitt, Assistant Regional Director
Division of Law Enforcement, FWS-Region 7

In the dry season, more than 3,000 elephants gather along the Tarangire River in northeastern Tanzania. The stream and nearby wetlands—centerpieces of the 2600-square kilometer **Tarangire National Park**—provide a critical source of year-round water for many species that inhabit the Maasai Steppe, including impala, leopard, lion, waterbuck, buffalo, zebra, giraffe, eland, oryx, bushbuck, wildebeest, and hartebeest. More than 300 species of birds inhabit the savanna grasslands and woodlands flanking the seasonal flood plain.

Though idyllic, the scene masks real and growing threats to the park’s biodiversity. The dry-season gathering at the river makes the elephants highly susceptible to organized poaching for ivory. In the wet season, most of the large mammals disperse outside the park through traditional corridors that are increasingly blocked by human settlements and subsistence and commercial hunters. Cattle grazing and farming also damage park grasslands.

In conjunction with a USAID project to conserve biodiversity at selected protected areas in Tanzania, **Jim Stinebaugh**, the senior resident agent from San Antonio, Texas, and I assessed the law enforcement program in Tarangire. We were able to see a large variety of the park’s wildlife, particularly in early morning and evening hours of our Nov. 1-7 visit last year.

Geography of The Park: Tarangire—Tanzania’s fourth largest national park—is about 100 kilometers southwest of Arusha. It is managed by Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), headquartered in Arusha. Three overnight facilities for tourists are authorized in the park. Jim and I stayed at a safari camp in the northern section, housed in large single tents that were mosquito-proof for the most part (malaria can be a problem), with individual showers and toilet facilities. Meals were served in an open air dining room, and the food was excellent. Several 4-wheel-drive dirt roads run through the park and we were able to visit all areas, returning to the camp nightly. With proper vehicles and equipment, the open terrain might enable law enforcement officers to conduct effective surveillance at distances extending several miles. Rocky hills on the boundaries of the park provide surveillance opportunities as well as vantage points for local residents involved in poaching and other illegal activities.

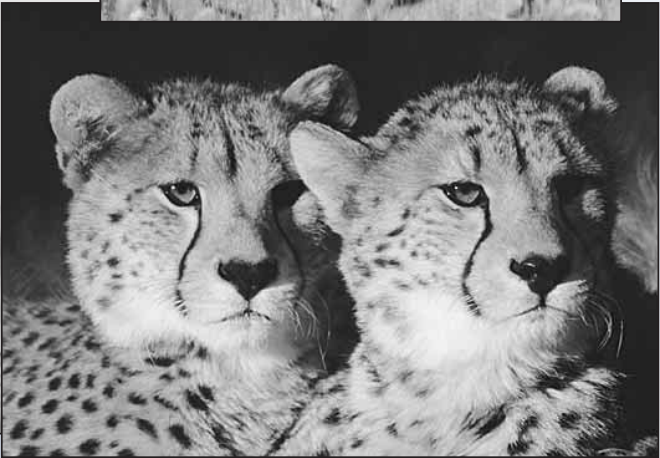
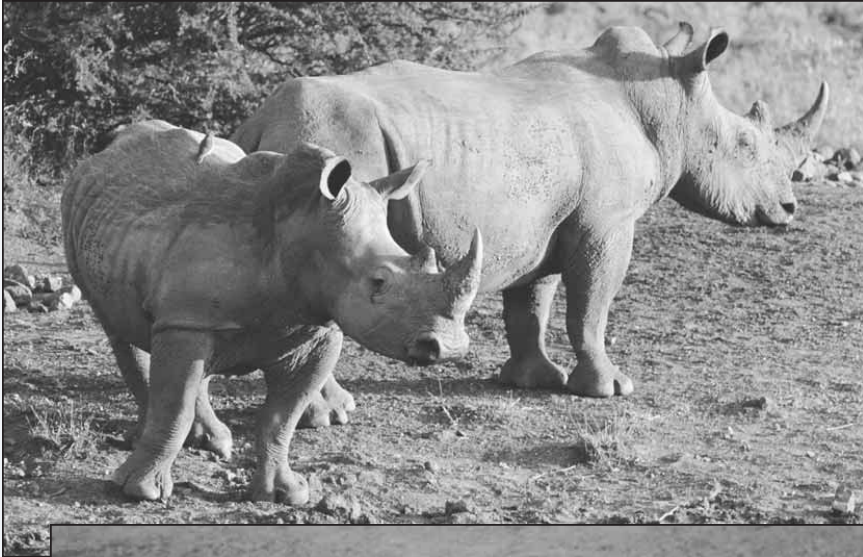
INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES Human settlements are most densely concentrated on the western side of the park. Numerous tribes, including the Mbugwe, Barbeig, Iraqui, Warangi, and Fyome, cultivate lands and graze cattle near the park boundary. Closing park land to hunting and other subsistence activities has caused widespread resentment toward park officials. East of the park are mainly Masai, who are pastoral and have not created permanent settlements. Although a rough 4-wheel drive dirt road exists around the park, it does not follow the park boundary in a number of areas and sections of the road are inaccessible during the wet season. The boundary is not fenced, nor do signs exist in many areas. The lack of boundary markings makes it easier to graze cattle and carry out other illegal activities along the park’s fringes.

Threats to Biodiversity: The park’s west side receives the most illegal activity because of the greater density of human habitation. As communities around the boundary grow, enforcement problems are becoming more serious. Ranger patrols outside the park are also increasingly important, as many of these areas are corridors for elephants, wildebeests, and other mammals migrating from the park in the wet season. Most poachers enter the park on foot, although bicycles and donkeys are also used on occasion. Subsistence poachers rarely use firearms to take wild mammals, preferring spears, wire snares, or arrows with poisoned tips. Poachers also use spotlights on nights with little moonlight to take the animals.

Commercial poaching for meat occurs but is not as serious a problem. The meat is transported from the park by bicycle and sold in Arusha and other large towns. Mist nets are used to take birds, most re eaten but some are sold for meat or the wild bird trade. Last July, a mist net more than 600 meters long was seized in the park’s southern end. Because the park has been a traditional hunting area for local tribes, TANAPA is trying to address this poaching conflict



Above, Jim Stinebaugh, right, examines a rifle issued to a Tanzanian ranger at Tarangire national park, while John D. Gavitt, at far right, joins Tarangire officials at the reserve during the evaluation visit.



bags, or other equipment for patrols or overnight stays were available. Rangers are reportedly selected from personnel who have been in the military or in national service and are therefore familiar with firearms. However, during our interviews, some rangers admitted to never firing their weapons.

Intelligence on illegal activities is normally received from informants or concerned citizens in local villages. Small payments from general funds are made by officers to informants who provide information that leads to arrests. Information on violations as well as daily activities are entered into a log book at each post, but there is no system for consolidating and analyzing intelligence at zonal or central locations, and using this information for planning future law enforcement operations. Each post is expected to take appropriate action on information received.

Rangers are supposed to be involved in at least 20 days of patrol per month (including 14 overnights). However, because of critical shortages in equipment and supplies and the time required to provide for basic human needs at the posts, we had serious doubts that many of the patrol activities described above actually take place. Primitive living conditions force rangers to spend a significant portion of their time attending to their families and chores such as hauling water and cooking over open fires or charcoal pits. Jim and I never observed rangers coming in from or leaving for patrol.

Park wardens and rangers receive little formal law enforcement training, and there is a significant need to develop basic knowledge in other investigative techniques. For example, when rangers are on patrol, snares are routinely confiscated, ostensibly because they might catch a wild animal. Jim and I suggested that surveillance and apprehension of violators might save more animals than merely pulling the snares.

Recommendations: Improving law enforcement in the park cannot occur without upgrading living and working conditions for law enforcement personnel. We made specific recommendations for digging wells, building accommodations, installing radio communications and solar power, and purchasing individual law enforcement equipment. We also recommended a monitoring plan to ensure that law enforcement effectiveness at Tarangire is increased as a result of these initiatives. An on-the-ground training approach is more effective in sharing practical knowledge about law enforcement operations but it could be complemented by formal classroom sessions. Tanzania’s parks are increasingly becoming islands that are surrounded by growing human communities whose inhabitants are focused on their day-to-day survival. Regardless of the level of law enforcement, wildlife in and around these parks will not survive unless these communities believe it will benefit them in the long run.

Tougher Tiger Law

Patricia Fisher, Public Affairs, FWS Headquarters

A new act proposed by Congress would close a gap in the existing Rhino and Tiger Conservation Act by prohibiting importation and sale of products claiming to contain rhinoceros horn or tiger products. The measure (H.R. 2807, the Rhino and Tiger Product Labeling Act) would make it illegal to sell products labeled as containing ingredients from these animals in the United States and allow law officers to seize the illegal substances at U.S. ports.

“This legislation will have the full support of the Administration and, if enacted, will add to other efforts to help our international partners in rhino and tiger conservation,” said **Secretary Babbitt**. “This country will use every tool it has to help save the world’s wild rhino and tiger populations from extinction due to illegal trade and habitat loss.”

Fish and Wildlife Service wildlife inspectors all over the country routinely find shipments containing wildlife products labeled as containing protected species parts, especially rhino and tiger. Even when labeled as containing rhino or tiger parts, the legal burden of proof falls on the Service to demonstrate scientifically if the products actually contain what the labels say. According to the Service’s forensics experts, it is time-consuming and costly to develop a DNA test to identify any particular group of wildlife, such as all rhinos or all tigers.

Given this situation, seized items must often be returned to the importer because it is not possible to show any violation of any existing U.S. law such as the Endangered Species Act or the Lacey Act. Because enforcement is so difficult, these products are easily found for sale. Regardless of whether they contain rhino or tiger parts, the products stimulate the market demand that makes these critically endangered animals more valuable dead than alive.

At latest count, there were no more than 5,000 to 7,000 tigers left in the wild. The total population of all three Asian rhino species is less than half the number of tigers and the African black rhino has suffered a 90-percent reduction since the 1960s. All populations of both species are protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), an international conservation agreement; nevertheless, the lucrative illegal trade in their parts and products continues.

Although range country governments were trying to reverse this dire situation, they lacked sufficient funds, training, personnel, enforcement capability or equipment to ensure success against the well-organized poachers. Recognizing that the United States could offer much-needed financial and moral support to the conservation programs of nations whose activities affect rhinos and tigers, Congress passed the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act in 1994. The law funds projects that will enhance sustainable development programs to provide effective long-term rhino and tiger conservation. In FY 1996, Congress appropriated \$200,000 for these grants, \$400,000 in FY 1997, another \$400,000 in FY 1998, and the same amount is requested in the President’s 1999 budget proposal. Funding is authorized through the year 2000.

“The United States will do its utmost to ensure that the next commemoration of the Year of the Tiger is a celebration and not a wake.”
Secretary Babbitt

“In this Year of the Tiger, I am encouraged to report that, thanks to appropriations provided by the U.S. Congress for the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund, range countries in Africa and Asia are reporting progress in their efforts to combat the forces responsible for the absolutely desperate state of these species due to habitat degradation and the illegal trade,” said Secretary Babbitt.

To date, 30 projects in ten range countries have been awarded about \$582,000 under the fund. This money has been tripled by matching grants, provided in most cases by the recipients, bringing the total to almost \$1.9 million. Half the money has gone to support law enforcement programs. In addition, nine grants were awarded to range country governments with an equal number going to range country non-governmental organizations. Twelve grants went to international non-governmental organizations.

“The distribution of these grants indicates that everyone is trying to work together to halt the drastic decline of these species,” said Babbitt. “I am encouraged to report that grant money is getting right into the hands of individuals who are working in local communities close to the problem. These are often out-of-the-way places rich in wildlife, vulnerable to poachers, and very difficult to protect. These grants, though small, really make a difference. The simple act of providing boots, raincoats, and basic training can make an enormous difference in the ability of rangers to undertake effective anti-poaching measures.”

The Service not only provides conservation assistance and law enforcement education abroad but also works at home with Asian communities to stop consumer demand for traditional medicine purported to contain rhino or tiger parts. “To break the cycle of poaching and illegal trade that devastated these irreplaceable animals, we must also work to break supply lines and remove rhino and tiger products from the U.S. marketplace,” said Babbitt.

The thriving trade in traditional Oriental medicines in cities all around the world having large Asian populations has fueled poaching activities in range countries. In 1994, the Service began a pilot program in Los Angeles, which has one of the nation’s largest Asian communities, involving an extensive outreach-conservation education program in conjunction with local schools and community-based activities. An interagency wildlife law enforcement task force in Los Angeles has also made concentrated efforts to interdict shipments of wildlife products including rhino and tiger medicines. “Thanks to this partnership with the Asian community, Los Angeles now has the lowest incidence of rhino and tiger products in traditional medicine shops,” said Babbitt.

Bureau of Reclamation



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Neil Stessman

NEW SERVICE CENTER DIRECTOR

Elee Erice, Billings, Montana

Commissioner Eluid Martinez has named **Neil Stessman** as director of the Reclamation Service Center in Denver, Colorado. The Service Center provides technical, management, and human resource services to Reclamation as well as administrative services, such as payroll, to the entire Department of the Interior. Stessman, whose reassignment to Denver was effective Jan. 20, will oversee an organization that has about 1400 employees and an annual budget of \$150 million. Deputy Regional Director **Larry Todd** is acting director for the Great Plains Region until a replacement is selected.

REGIONAL ENGINEERS OF 1997

Jay Henrie, deputy area manager and civil engineer in the Provo Area Office, Upper Colorado Region, received the 1997 Reclamation-wide Engineer of the Year award. The regional engineers of the year for 1997 are: **Lyle Lallum**, lead for the engineering design group of the Technical Services Group, Great Plains Region; **Jayne Harkins**, river operations group manager of the Boulder Canyon Operations Office, Lower Colorado Region; and **Richard Welsh**, resident engineer on the Shasta Temperature Device and field engineer for the Willows Construction Office, Mid Pacific Region. The winners were recognized during National Engineers Week in Washington, D.C. There were no entries for the Pacific Northwest Region or the Reclamation Service Center.



1997 Reclamation Engineer of the Year Jan Henrie, left, receives an award certificate from Provo Area Office Projects Manager Bruce Barrett.



Mid-Pacific Regional Engineer of the Year Richard Welsh, left, with his delighted father, Robert Welsh, who also is a civil engineer with Reclamation in Denver, Colorado.

Reclamation annually conducts the award program for Regional Office Engineer of the Year and the Reclamation Service Center Engineer of the Year to recognize the significant accomplishments of its engineers. The initiative is conducted in conjunction with the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE), which sponsors the Federal Engineer of the Year Award Program. Reclamation uses the same criteria as NSPE to make selections for Reclamation awards, and submits its nominee from these two to NSPE for the national federal competition.

DENVER EMPLOYEES BECOME PEN PALS

Ben Radecki, Denver, Colorado

More than 100 Reclamation workers in Denver, Colorado, are receiving letters from students they have never met. And the employees are writing back—as part of a community effort to help area schools develop cost-efficient ways to advance students' reading and writing skills.

Reclamation began its involvement in the **Pen Pals for Students** program in November 1997 and currently has 105 volunteer employees who are participating in the initiative. The agency is working with classes at Cowell Elementary School in Denver. Five Reclamation employees joined **Andy McKean**, the program coordinator for the Denver Public Schools, to kick off the effort by visiting Cowell Elementary to explain the program to teachers and their classes.

The program is coordinated by the Complete the Cycle Center for Denver's metro area elementary and middle schools. The center matches classes in upper elementary (3rd-5th grades) or middle school classes with a group of working adults who volunteer to serve as pen-pals to those classes. The initiative started when business representatives on the Collaborative-Decision Making teams for Denver elementary schools learned that literacy is the greatest need and primary emphasis of the Denver schools. The search focused on how to improve students' reading and writing skills. The pen pal program has been very popular with businesses because it costs no money, does not require employees to leave their desks, lifts employee morale, and gives the business recognition in the community as caring about students' education. Benefits to the students include making a new friend through the mail, receiving positive feedback and encouragement to learn, and improving reading and writing skills in an enjoyable environment.



The South Dakota cities of Highmore, Blunt, Onida, and Gettysburg are now receiving treated Missouri River Water, thanks to water lines, like the one shown above, that have been installed through funding by Reclamation.

Photo by Ted Hall

VISION BECOMES REALITY IN SOUTH DAKOTA Mid-Dakota Water System Improves Life for Thousands of Rural Residents

Elee Erice, Billings, Montana, and Ted Hall, Pierre, South Dakota

For thousands of rural residents of east central South Dakota who have struggled with an inadequate supply of clean water all of their lives, good quality drinking water is becoming a reality, thanks to the Mid-Dakota Rural Water System of South Dakota, which is financed principally by Reclamation.

When completed, this complex water allocation system will supply clean water from Lake Oahe to about 30,000 residents in 10 central South Dakota counties through 2,600 hookups (including 21 cities). About 5,000 residents are already connected. The project is scheduled to be finished in the next six years, depending on the level of federal funding. For fiscal year 1998, Mid-Dakota received \$13 million which will be used to connect about 500 rural users and communities in Hughes, Hyde, Sully, and Potter counties.

The Mid-Dakota project marked another major milestone on Jan. 17 with the official dedication of the Oahe Water Treatment Plant. Following the ribbon-cutting ceremony, 250 people toured the \$10.3 million facility, which is located about six miles from Pierre, South Dakota. Those at the dedication included **Gerald Kelso**, the manager of the Great Plains Region Resource Management Services Group, U.S. Congressman **John Thune**, Senate representatives, South Dakota residents, and other federal, state, and local officials.

The plant, which has the capacity to treat nine million gallons of water per day, was completed last spring and has been treating about 300,000 to 400,000 gallons of water daily. After the water is pumped from Lake Oahe, it passes through a chemical feed building on its way to the treatment facility. At the plant, additional chemicals—including chlorine, fluoride, and ammonia—are added to disinfect the water and to increase the size of water-born particles to aid in filtration.

With the help of federal and state funds, construction of the system began on Sept. 12, 1994, with Mid-Dakota's water intake and pump station on the shores of the Missouri River. With the completion of the intake, pump, and treatment facilities, constructing the distribution system is now the primary focus of the project.

Hatchery to Accelerate Recovery of Winter-run Chinook Salmon



Photo by Mark Volkoff

A new fish hatchery and rearing facility located downstream of Shasta Dam in California will conduct urgent recovery programs for endangered winter-run chinook salmon. The hatchery, which was designed, constructed, and brought on-line in only five months, was dedicated by Reclamation and the Fish and Wildlife Service on Feb. 5.

Its speedy completion reflects the commitment of federal agencies and non-federal stakeholders to accelerate the recovery of winter-run chinook salmon, help ensure survival of this endangered species, and support fishery, farming, and other interests in protecting and preserving the winter-run.

The sense of urgency in developing the facility stemmed from the need for new genetic material to be obtained in the next breeding cycle (early 1998) of the species. The hatchery will carry out supplemental propagation and captive broodstock recommendations for winter-run recovery. Its location also ensures the successful imprinting on the artificially spawned salmon of mainstem Sacramento River water so that the chinook will return to spawn at the natural spawning grounds.

The 2700 square-foot hatchery, located half a mile below Shasta Dam, has a gravity feed water supply system using Sacramento River water from the penstocks of Shasta Dam, and includes egg and fry incubation units, sixty 30-inch diameter circular tanks for early rearing, thirty 3-foot by 16-foot rectangular tanks to rear fingerlings, twenty 12-foot diameter circular tanks to hold broodstock, a 1000 cubic-foot walk-in storage freezer for fish food, and a small office.

Havasu NWR Gets Makeover, Throws Wildlife Festival

Colleen Dwyer, Las Vegas, Nevada

The first annual Coot Festival, sponsored by the **Havasu National Wildlife Refuge** in the Lower Colorado Region, was the big event downriver on Feb. 7. Billed as “A Celebration of Wildlife and Wetlands,” it offered something special for everyone. The day-long program featured activities and presentations highlighting several aspects of Colorado River resources.

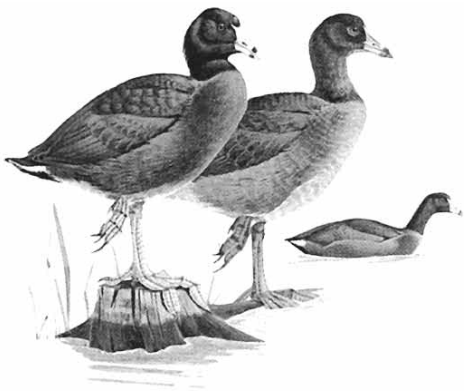
Named after the most plentiful bird species found along the Colorado River in spring, the festival was designed to underscore the importance of the National Wildlife Refuge system to wildlife and habitat and the importance of interagency cooperation to maintain these ecosystems.

A few weeks later, representatives from Reclamation, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land Management dedicated a new public recreation facility at the refuge Feb. 20. Reclamation was primarily responsible for design and construction oversight of a new parking lot, trail system, fishing pier, and restrooms.

Havasu National Wildlife Refuge extends 24 miles along the Colorado River between Needles, California, and Lake Havasu City, Arizona. When the gates closed at Parker Dam in 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created Havasu NWR to provide habitat and protect wildlife within the newly established area. The refuge consists of 37,515 acres; about 17,000 are designated wilderness. The river and its backwaters provide 300 miles of shoreline in the refuge, a valuable ecosystem in the harsh environment of the Mohave Desert and a popular recreation destination.



— FEEDING THE HOMELESS —
Volunteers, from left, Jayne Kelleher, Hitomi Yamaguchi, Judy Belka, Luanna Lambert, and Jeff Painter serve up steaming meals to the homeless in Salt Lake City, Utah. All except Yamaguchi work in the Upper Colorado Region. Story on page 2. Photo by Tom Walsh



Havasu National Wildlife Refuge hosted the first annual Coot Festival. A disease that damages avian nervous systems is killing bald eagles and American coots in Arkansas, Georgia, and North Carolina. American coots are members of the order Gruiformes, which includes cranes, rails, limpkins, and others.

Preserving Archeological Treasures

Signa Larralde, Albuquerque Area Office

During the 1950s and 1960s, when Reclamation built several large dams and reservoirs in the Upper Colorado Region, archeological excavations preceding the work generated hundreds of thousands of artifacts and hundreds of sets of human remains. Among the sites where the digs were held are Navajo Reservoir, Nambe Reservoir, and Brantley Reservoir in New Mexico.

The archeological collections from the New Mexico reservoirs were stored at universities and museums, some as far away as Dallas, Texas. At the time, federal funds were not available for keeping track of these extensive and irreplaceable research collections or ensuring that they were stored properly.

During the past several years, however, the Federal Government has increasingly recognized its long-term responsibility for these archeological collections, and has developed standards for their care. In 1990, Congress passed the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, which required museums and federal agencies to identify human remains and associated grave goods in their collections so that these remains could be repatriated to the appropriate tribes.

The mandates improved the care of archeological collections and the call to repatriate Native American human remains to tribes required an museums holding federal artifacts to inventory collections, identify and account for human remains and their associated grave goods, identify and account for sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony, and bring storage and cataloguing systems up to federal standards.

In 1993, Reclamation’s Upper Colorado Region entered into a cooperative agreement with the Museum of New Mexico to identify collections from this region in the museum’s facilities. Since then, **Dr. Pat Nietfeld**, the museum’s curator of archeological research, identified the whereabouts of all the collections excavated when the dams and reservoirs were built. Dr. Nietfeld tracked down various collections at institutions in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, and helped Reclamation in its efforts to account for the large collections for which the agency is responsible.



Commissioner Martinez presents an award to Dr. Pat Nietfeld for her help with Reclamation’s archaeological research.

At a recent award reception at the Museum of New Mexico, Commissioner Eluid Martinez stated that Dr. Nietfeld’s help was critical in upgrading the curation of archeological collections for which Reclamation is responsible. “We appreciate your help in organizing our extensive archeological collections from Navajo Reservoir, Nambe Reservoir, Brantley Reservoir, and other projects throughout New Mexico,” Martinez said. “These collections number in the hundreds of thousands of items. Care of museum collections is a priority for the Department, and your work in bringing the curation of Upper Colorado Region archeological collections up to departmental standards has been outstanding.”

Through Dr. Nietfeld’s efforts, Reclamation’s collections are now accounted for and appropriately housed. “Our sincere thanks go to Dr. Nietfeld and her staff for their excellent work in serving as stewards for our nation’s archeological resources.”

Pot shards and other archeological material recovered during excavation work on Reclamation-built dams and reservoirs in the Southwest. Photo courtesy of the National Park Service.

Budget Seeks \$776 Million for Western Water Management

The Bureau of Reclamation’s budget submission for fiscal year 1999 requests \$893.3 million in new budget authority, including \$775.8 million in current appropriations to support Reclamation’s water resources management programs in the West. This is a decrease of \$8 million from the 1998 level.

The proposed budget also includes \$143.3 million in second-year funding for the California Bay-Delta Ecosystem Restoration, an increase of \$58.3 million over enacted 1998 funding. This project seeks to restore the ecological health of the Bay-Delta system and improve water management techniques for beneficial uses. Funding will be distributed among participating federal agencies based on a program recommended by CALFED—a consortium of federal and state agencies with management and regulatory responsibilities in the Bay-Delta. It must be approved by the Secretary of the Interior.

“Reclamation’s budget reflects our success in evolving from a civil works construction agency to a water resources management organization,” Commissioner **Eluid Martinez** said. “Our FY99 request especially emphasizes our continued focus on environmental restoration in several river basins and in California’s Bay-Delta, and our dedication to dam safety and repair work.”

The request includes \$665.9 million for Water and Related Resources, a decrease of \$27.1 million from 1998. The proposed budget also includes \$68 million for safety of dams activities which help to ensure the safety and reliability of Reclamation structures and protect the downstream public. In addition, the request provides funds for moving several large projects currently under construction towards completion, including



\$49.9 million for the Central Arizona Project, \$31.3 million for Mni Wiconi (South Dakota), and \$24.1 million for the Garrison Diversion Unit (North Dakota). The budget also includes \$131.4 million for California’s Central Valley Project for facility operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation, and for fish and wildlife work and other purposes. Funds are also requested in 1999 to complete sediment removal in the Colorado River near Yuma, Arizona.

The 1999 request also seeks funds for high priority activities that emphasize water conservation, environmental restoration, and innovative ways of managing water resources. The budget proposes \$36.6 million for water reclamation and reuse, including funds for four ongoing construction projects, two studies, and an initiative in this important field. Funds for recently revamped programs aimed at reducing salinity in the Upper Colorado River Basin and encouraging the efficient use of water are increased to \$12.3 million and \$5.3 million respectively. Funds are requested for several environmental restoration projects, including \$13.1 million for Columbia/Snake River Salmon Recovery projects and \$15 million for Endangered Species Recovery projects in other river basins.

In addition to funds for the Central Valley Project (California) included in the Water and Related Resources account, \$49.4 million is requested for the Central Valley Project Restoration Fund. This fund, financed by revenues collected from project beneficiaries, is available to improve fish and wildlife resources in the Central Valley Project area. The 1999 request includes funding of \$12.4 million for the Loan Program, a \$2 million increase from 1998. This request would continue funding five loans in California and one in Oregon.

National Park Service



Robert G. Stanton, Bureau Director
Ricardo Lewis, Bureau Editor

CC:Mail to Rick Lewis at NP-WASO

NPS PEOPLE

Ross Named Assistant Director



D. Thomas Ross has been named as the new assistant director for Recreation and Conservation of the National Park Service. In this role, Tom will provide national leadership for the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Urban Park and Recreation Recovery, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Federal Lands-to-Parks, Park Practice, National Heritage Areas, Long Distance Trails, and other partnership programs.

Ross has more than 17 years of federal, state, and local experience in working on many of these programs. For the last eight years, he has administered many of the trail and greenway programs of the National Park Service, working in partnership with national nonprofit organizations in creating recreation opportunities and protecting important resources for Americans.

Reynolds Tapped for Cape Hatteras

Robert W. (Bob) Reynolds, a 26-year veteran of the NPS, has been appointed as the new superintendent at Cape Hatteras National Seashore in North Carolina. Reynolds, who had previously served as a deputy director of the National Park Service's intermountain regional office in Denver, Colorado, succeeds **Russell W. Berry Jr.** as manager of the Cape Hatteras Group, which includes the national seashore, Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, and Wright Brothers National Memorial. Berry recently transferred to the Caribbean where he now heads Virgin Islands National Park.

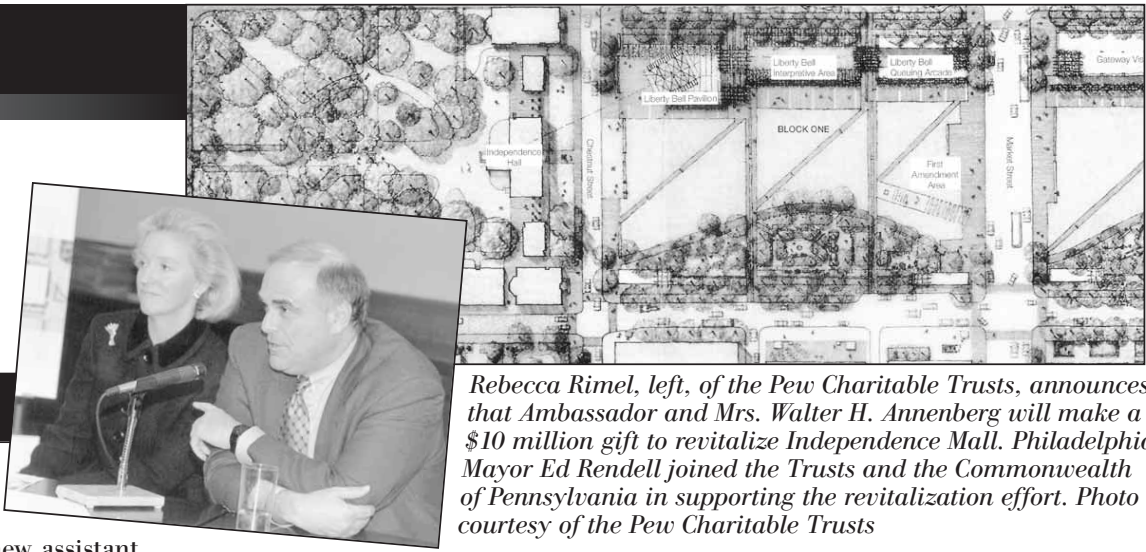


Reynolds had worked in the Park Service's intermountain regional office for nearly four years as associate regional director for operations and resources and later as deputy regional director. He had overall management responsibility for the Colorado Plateau Cluster consisting of 31 national park sites ranging from Grand Canyon National Park to Fossil Butte National Monument. Reynolds received the Department's Meritorious Service award in 1991, and has served on international assignments in Europe. Reynolds and his wife, Barbara, have two grown children, Kristina, who lives in California, and Scott, who resides in Ohio. Reynolds and his brother, John, now regional director of the Park Service's Pacific West Region headquartered in San Francisco, both grew up in parks. Their father, the late **Harvey Reynolds**, was a longtime Park Service manager who served in parks such as Yellowstone, Theodore Roosevelt, and Pipestone National Monument.



NPS Southeast Regional Director Jerry Nelson, right, presents a plaque and pin commemorating 40 years of government service by Gary Everhardt, superintendent of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Everhardt served as director of the National Park Service in the mid-1970s and has headed the Blue Ridge staff for the past 20 years. Photo by Mike Booher

**NPS VOLUNTEERS
BRIGHTEN BIG
APPLE LIVES, 23**



Rebecca Rimel, left, of the Pew Charitable Trusts, announces that Ambassador and Mrs. Walter H. Annenberg will make a \$10 million gift to revitalize Independence Mall. Philadelphia Mayor Ed Rendell joined the Trusts and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in supporting the revitalization effort. Photo courtesy of the Pew Charitable Trusts

Independence Mall Revitalization

Ambassador and Mrs. Walter H. Annenberg will make a gift of \$10 million to help revitalize Independence Mall (Philadelphia, PA), according to Rebecca W. Rimel, president of The Pew Charitable Trusts. The gift, joined with funds from The Pew Charitable Trusts, the City of Philadelphia, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Connelly Foundation, the Knight Foundation, and other supporters of the revitalization effort, will develop the interpretative areas of a new Liberty Bell complex on the first block of Independence Mall and complete funding for related projects.

The Annenberg Foundation gift will provide \$4.2 million to create a state-of-the-art educational and interpretative facility for the Liberty Bell, adjacent to the new city-funded chamber that will house the Bell at the southwest corner of Independence Mall. The remaining portion of the Annenbergs' gift will complete funding for the Gateway Visitor Center—a vital link in the region's tourism and economic development strategy—and for the surface landscaping on most of block two of Independence Mall.

Ambassador Annenberg, who has had a long and distinguished career as an editor and publisher, broadcaster, diplomat, and philanthropist, was recently described by *The American Benefactor* magazine as "the most beneficent philanthropist in the history of the world." He served as editor and publisher of *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, and established *Seventeen Magazine* and *TV Guide*. He was named Ambassador to the Court of St. James in 1969 and served in Great Britain until 1974. Mrs. Annenberg is a former Chief of Protocol for the United States, and has worked most of her life for the enhancement of cultural appreciation among American citizens.

"We have followed closely the recent developments to enhance America's most historic site, where the precepts that guided our Founding Fathers and our democracy were forged, and where the peal of liberty still rings," said Ambassador and Mrs. Annenberg. "We are pleased to join in this extraordinarily important initiative to ensure that Independence Mall, with the Liberty Bell as its centerpiece, is an unparalleled destination and an inspiring experience for visitors from throughout our nation and the world." The Annenbergs have been especially supportive of efforts to enhance education and cultural enrichment in Philadelphia.

\$12 MILLION RESERVATION SERVICE CONTRACT

The new National Reservation Service for the National Park Service is operated by Biospherics Inc. of Beltsville, Maryland. Biospherics will provide camping and tour reservations to park visitors via a toll-free number. Advanced information technology will be used to connect 25 national park sites to the Biospherics reservation center. The contract required Biospherics to have its service up and running by March 15 to accommodate the 1998 summer season.

With the two contract years, plus three option years, the total contract value of the service is about \$12 million. The service center will process reservations for campsites at national parks, seashores, and recreation areas, such as Grand Canyon National Park (AZ), Cape Hatteras National Seashore (NC), and Whiskeytown National Recreation Area (CA). Reservations also will be available for tours at Mammoth Cave National Park (KY), Carlsbad Caverns National Park (NM), and the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site (Washington, D.C.). Visitors will be able to make camping and tour reservations up to three months in advance.

Biospherics, Inc., is a publicly held firm that specializes in large, advanced federal and state information call centers, according to its president and founder, **Dr. Gilbert V. Levin**, including the Federal Information Center and the Maryland Office of Tourism Development Hotlines. The firm also has centers in Cumberland and Columbia, Maryland.

★ **Bob Satin**, aka Ranger Bob, a seasonal interpretive ranger at Kenai Fjords National Park, was elected Mayor of Seward, Alaska. He beat the incumbent, a former police chief, by a 2-to-1 margin. ★ Sequoia Awards, for excellence in interpretation, have been presented to **Lorenza Fong** and **Dave Dahlen**. Fong represented the NPS as a consultant in helping the government of China to develop a wayside exhibit plan to interpret The Great Wall. She's also taken her interpretive skills to South America, and raised the interpretative standards in this country and abroad. Dahlen, an interpretive training manager, received the award for his strong support, advocacy, and leadership of the Interpretive Skills Teams that successfully provided for the training of front line interpreters by their peers. ★ Mammoth Cave National Park's website, designed by park staffer **Tres Seymour**, won first prize in a competition of statewide tourism homepages sponsored by the Kentucky Tourism Council. ★ **Ida Niederhafer Holder** celebrated her 100th birthday on Dec. 17, 1997 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Her son, **Dick Holder**, worked for the NPS from 1957 at the Blue Ridge Parkway, Theodore Roosevelt, Yellowstone, Scotts Bluff, WASO, the

Southeast Regional Office, the Denver Service Center, and as an advisor to Saudi Arabian in establishing a national park system for that country. Her granddaughter, **Cathy Spude**, is a second-generation NPS employee, stationed in Santa Fe. ★ **John Brooks**, underwater photographer for the Submerged Cultural Resources Unit based in the Intermountain Support Office, Santa Fe, is among the AV Video and Multimedia Producer's 1997 'Top 100,' according to the November *Video Magazine*. In addition to the 12 videos and four PSAs he has produced for the NPS, John co-wrote and shot photographs for *The Underwater Wonders of the National Parks*.® The recent Pacific West Region Administration and Maintenance Workshop gave a \$2,200 boost to the NPS Employee and Alumni Association's Scholarship Fund through a silent auction. ★ **Debbie Boyd** and **Theresa Thomas**, rangers at Ocmulgee National Monument were recognized by the mayor of Macon, Georgia, who presented the Small Employer of the Year Award to the park for its outstanding support in employing people with disabilities. The rangers helped **Martha Chapman**, an employee who is deaf, to qualify for a Habitat for Humanity house.

AROUND THE PARKS

Celebrating 50th anniversaries this year are **De Soto National Memorial (FL)**, **Fort Sumter National Monument (SC)**, **Fort Vancouver National Historic Site (WA)**, **Hampton National Historic Site (MD)**, and **Independence National Historical Park (PA)**. Celebrating 75th anniversaries are **Aztec Ruins National Monument (NM)**, **Hovenweep National Monument (CO, UT)**, **Pipe Spring National Monument (AZ)**, and **Carlsbad Caverns National Park (NM)**.

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, Oregon, has yielded up a 25-million-year-old tooth that is an extremely rare fossil. The 4mm (0.15 inch) lower molar was found during routine prospecting under the direction of the park's paleontologist **Ted Fremd**. **John Zancanella** of the Bureau of Land Management, who was working in the park on an interagency team, discovered it on an isolated peak. During cataloguing, when several other new kinds of animal fossils also were identified, this tooth "jumped out as something we've been looking for with very little hope, for many years," Fremd said. "After 130 years of collecting in the John Day Basin, this is the only one of its kind—about as rare as fossils get." The tooth is the only North American primate fossil of the late Oligocene Epoch (28 to 24 million years ago) found in proximity to volcanic ash layers. Using high precision argon isotopes, scientists can date these ash tuffs.

Manhattan Sites' Hamilton Grange, one of the most historic buildings in New York City's upper Manhattan that had been closed to the public for six years, has reopened on a limited basis. About 200 New Yorkers attended a weekend open house on Jan. 11,



marking the 243rd anniversary of the birth of the home's original occupant, Alexander Hamilton. NPS rangers will interpret the site's history and Alexander Hamilton's life and career. Manhattan Sites is acquiring period furnishings and initially has opened three rooms, according to Superintendent Joseph T. Avery. Safety concerns forced the closing of Hamilton Grange in 1992. Park Service staff from the North East Regional Support Office, the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, and Manhattan Sites, started in 1997 to stabilize the structure and make aesthetic improvements.

The Grange was a comfortable country retreat which was completed in 1802, two years before Hamilton died in a duel with Aaron Burr. The home was built on a knoll overlooking the Hudson and

Hamilton Grange as it appears today.



The U.S. Postal Service's Grand Canyon stamp was unveiled Jan. 24 to commemorate one of the crown jewels of the nation's natural wonders. The stamp is one of 30 unveiled over the 30 consecutive days as part of the Celebrate the Century Program, which honors the most memorable and significant people, places, and events of each decade of the 20th Century.

will document an estimated 70,000 plant and animal species in the park—including some that probably have never been identified by the scientific community—and will provide hands-on field experience for thousands of volunteers, scientists, educators, and students. Funding for the project will be raised through partnerships with universities and private sources. The park contact is Bob Miller at (423) 436-1208; Paul Winegar is the public affairs contact, (404) 562-3182. In a related development, the Friends group at Great Smoky Mountains NP recently presented park superintendent **Karen Wade** with a check for more than \$338,000 to help pay for a wide range of visitor service and resource protection projects. In its four years of existence, the Friends have contributed \$2 million to support the park.

Backcountry Rangers at **Grand Canyon National Park (AZ)** will soon be sending out something extra with backcountry permits. Hikers obtaining a backcountry permit by mail after Jan. 31 will receive a hiking video with their permit. *Hiking Grand Canyon* is designed to help hikers plan for and enjoy their hike into the canyon's harsh, yet fragile, environment. It includes tips on what to bring along, preventing fatigue and illness, coping with extreme weather, protecting the fragile resources and much more. The cost of a permit will not increase for hikers who currently pay \$20 per permit and a \$4 per person, per night impact fee. The video was produced using new fees collected under the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program as well as funds from the Grand Canyon Association, a not-for-profit group that promotes knowledge, discovery, and stewardship of Grand Canyon National Park.

FY99 BUDGET TARGETS CRITICAL PARK INFRASTRUCTURE & RESOURCE PRESERVATION

The \$1.8 billion proposed for the National Park Service's fiscal year 1999 budget—an increase of \$94.2 million over FY98—addresses long-standing construction and maintenance needs. A net increase of \$69 million is proposed for NPS maintenance, including a \$60 million increase specifically for deferred repair and rehabilitation projects, with a strong emphasis on correcting health and safety deficiencies.

This initiative will augment two existing maintenance programs: cyclic maintenance will receive a \$22.6 million, or 95 percent, increase to ensure that park facilities receive timely preventive maintenance, so they do not fall into disrepair; and the repair and rehabilitation program will be enhanced by \$37.4 million, a 115 percent increase.

The repair and rehabilitation program encompasses the repair of facilities that are in a more-advanced state of deterioration, ensuring that the most serious health and safety deficiencies are corrected. The additional funds for these two programs will help ensure that more than 47 percent of the NPS list of historic structures are in good condition and that visitor safety is improved.

Additional funding to remedy infrastructure and resource deficiencies will also be available from the Service's construction request and from the Recreation Demonstration Fee Program, authorized by Congress in 1996. Fee receipts to be deposited into the National Park Renewal Fund in FY 1999 are estimated at \$136.5 million. These receipts are available to the NPS without further appropriation. Eighty percent of these funds will be retained for projects at the collecting demonstration park, and 20 percent will be distributed nationally to all parks on the basis of need. The total fee revenue in FY 1999 is estimated at \$146 million.

The South Florida Ecosystem Initiative would receive \$81 million for acquiring federal and state lands in South Florida that include properties critical to the long-term survival of the Everglades ecosystem. An additional \$12 million is proposed for scientific research in order to study how the natural system originally functioned and in what ways it is now being impaired. Another \$14 million is proposed for assisting with the Modified Water Delivery System being constructed by the Corps of Engineers to restore Everglades National Park's natural hydrological conditions.

Overall, the FY 1999 budget proposal requests an additional \$75.2 million for basic park operations, with the majority of this amount reflected in the \$60 million maintenance project initiative. Another important increase proposal is a \$6.7 million

initiative which would provide funding to address specific high-priority operational needs at 46 parks. Two-thirds of the parks proposed for increase have base budgets under \$1 million.

The additional funds would allow these smaller parks more flexibility to support their basic operational programs. The increased park funding would also be used to address the responsibilities for new facilities at existing and newly established units such as **Cane River Creole National Historical Park, LA**; **Natchez National Historical Park, MS**; **George Washington Memorial Parkway, VA**; and **Golden Gate National Recreation Area, CA**. This initiative also includes funding to combat immediate threats to natural and cultural resources at parks such as **El Morro National Monument, NM**; **Mesa Verde National Park, CO**; **Fort Larned National Historic Site, KS**; and **Effigy Mounds National Monument, IA**.

The \$175 million requested for the NPS construction program is \$25 million more than requested in FY 1998. The NPS and the Interior Department have convened a working group to evaluate and recommend funding for planned projects that address health, safety, and high priority natural and cultural resource needs. The working group will complete its work expeditiously to ensure that the most critical projects are addressed. For major construction projects to be funded in 1999, the NPS will develop Capital Asset Plans to ensure that they are completed within specified cost, schedule, and performance goals.

In addition to this review, an independent study of the NPS construction program and the role of the Denver Service Center, which oversees the Service's construction planning, contracting and design program, is underway. This study is being conducted by the National Academy of Public Administration. Its purpose is to examine current NPS construction management practices in order to identify management and organizational reforms.

The NPS Land Acquisition and state assistance program is funded at \$138 million, including the \$81 million for the South Florida acquisitions. Funds would be directed toward acquiring high priority tracts at park areas including: \$4.6 million for **Haleakala National Park, HI**; \$4.1 million for **Cumberland Island National Seashore, GA**; \$2.5 million for **Katmai National Park and Preserve, AK**; and \$2 million for **Olympic National Park, WA**.



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Partnership Brings Mexican Gray Wolves Back to the Wild

Sharon Rose, Public Affairs, Denver
Hans Stuart, Public Affairs, Albuquerque

Representing great hopes for the future of their kind, three families of Mexican wolves were recently taken to eastern Arizona to await release into the mountains and woodlands of Apache National Forest. The event marked a milestone in a recovery effort that aims to restore this endangered species to a portion of its historic range in the Southwest.

The Mexican gray wolves transferred to acclimation pens will spend six to ten weeks in the enclosures, each measuring about 1/3 of an acre. While in the pens, the wolves will be given carcasses of natural prey species, and food will continue to be provided after release until biologists determine the wolves are finding food on their own. The wolves are expected to find an abundance of natural prey, such as elk and deer, to support them. Biologists expect that once the wolves are acclimated to the area and released, they will establish territories and breed.

“This is a triumph of the Endangered Species Act,” said **Secretary Babbitt**, “the landmark conservation law through which Americans, as stewards, protect and restore the whole of God’s creation. As we bring these wolves back to the wild, we strengthen the human spirit.” The project is a cooperative effort among the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the USDA Forest Service, and the USDA Wildlife Services.

Babbitt joined Arizona Game and Fish Department Director **Duane Shroufe**, FWS Director **Jamie Rappaport Clark**, and USDA Acting Regional Forester **John Kirkpatrick** at the Jan. 26 event. The participants carried crates containing the first three Mexican wolves into a remote acclimation pen tucked away in the mountains along the Arizona-New Mexico border. When released in several weeks, the wolves will be among the first to exist in the wild in the United States since 1970, when the last Mexican wolves disappeared from the American Southwest.

“We owe much of the success of this program to the painstaking efforts by zoos and other facilities to safeguard the existence of the Mexican wolf through captive breeding programs,” said Clark. “Organizations such as the American Zoological Association continue to be critical partners in maintaining populations of species that are gone from the wild, such as the Mexican wolf, California condor, and black-footed ferret, until the time comes when they can return to their native landscapes.”

“The decision to reintroduce Mexican wolves into the Southwest has not been made lightly or in isolation,” said Arizona’s Shroufe. “Valid arguments have been made both for and against it. Now, however, the question is at last settled, and the Arizona Game



Mexican gray wolves were once found throughout the mountainous regions from central Mexico through southeastern Arizona, southern New Mexico, and southwestern Texas. They were eradicated from the Southwest by the mid 20th Century through intensive predator removal efforts. The last wild Mexican wolf was confirmed in the United States in 1970 and in Mexico in 1980.

and Fish Department is dedicated to ensuring that reintroduction is successful. Our challenge will be to ensure that in working toward wolf conservation, we and the other cooperators also appropriately protect the interests of those who do not look upon this event with as much satisfaction as do those of us who are in the wildlife management profession.”

Kirkpatrick added a historic note. “A Forest Service forester named Aldo Leopold thought and wrote about the role of wolves in the Southwest earlier in this century,” Kirkpatrick recalled. “It is an honor to be the Forest Service forester physically helping reintroduce wolves into a southwest ecosystem before the next century begins, in keeping with Leopold’s vision.”

Additional Mexican gray wolves will be reintroduced over the next three to five years with the goal of establishing a wild population of 100 wolves in the 7,000-square-mile Blue Range recovery area in eastern Arizona and western New Mexico. Reintroduced wolves are expected to disperse from the release sites and establish territories in Apache and Gila national forests, which comprise the recovery area. Wolves that stray outside the recovery area will be captured and returned to the area or placed in captivity.

Mexican wolves were listed as endangered in 1976. Reintroduced wolves will be designated a “non-essential experimental” population, a provision of the Endangered Species Act that relaxes some of the Act’s restrictions and provides greater flexibility in managing the reintroduced animals. For example, limited “take,” which includes harming, harassing, or killing, may be allowed in some instances to address livestock depredation problems that may arise. Defenders of Wildlife, a private conservation group, has established a fund to reimburse livestock owners who lose animals to wolves.

There are 175 Mexican wolves in existence, all of them born in captivity at 32 zoos and facilities in the United States and Mexico. The intensive work of these captive management facilities has made it possible to embark on the historic return of Mexican wolves to the wild. Wolves that are candidates for reintroduction undergo a pre-acclimation period at Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico and other remote facilities, where they can be held and managed to foster behavior and characteristics that will enhance their ability to survive in the wild.

“As with most other conservation success stories, the return of the Mexican wolf is possible only through the dedication of the partners engaged in this effort,” said Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Director **Nancy Kaufman**. “The work and cooperation of the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the USDA Forest Service, many agencies, zoos, non-government organizations, and individuals, as well as the commitment to Mexican wolf recovery by the government of Mexico, are crucial to restoring the Mexican wolf to the wild.”

REINTRODUCTION PROGRAMS

Efforts to restore the Mexican wolf to the wild mark the third wolf reintroduction program undertaken by the Service in the past 11 years. In 1987, biologists released



Mexican wolf

eight critically endangered red wolves to Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge in eastern North Carolina, part of their historic range. Additional red wolves have since been released in the Cades’ Cove area of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, along the North Carolina-Tennessee border. Both populations are doing well. Prior to their releases, the red wolf and Mexican wolf were extinct in the wild. The released animals were born and raised in zoos or captive-breeding facilities.

By contrast, all the gray wolves released into Yellowstone National Park in

Wyoming and the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness in Idaho were wild-born, captured in Canada, and transported as family units. This program has been hugely successful and the combined population is nearly triple the original number of animals released. In Yellowstone, for example, where 31 gray wolves were reintroduced in 1995-96, there are now an estimated 85.



Red wolf

Under the gray wolf monitoring and recovery plan, park biologists continue to track reintroduced wolves and their offspring to determine if and when a recovered

wolf population has been achieved. Seventeen of the free-ranging animals from five different packs were captured and radio-collared in Yellowstone on Jan. 5-9. Four of the wolves, all alpha males, were re-collared; the remaining 13 were collared for the first time. This brings the total number of collared wolves to 43 (55 percent of the population). Due to the weather, park biologists were unable to collar as many wolves as had been previously estimated.

Nine gray wolf pups were born in Yellowstone during the spring of 1995 and 14 in the spring of 1996. The total number of pups observed during the 1997 breeding season was 64. The January 1998 survey showed only 48. Pups known to have been born to a pack but not present in this winter survey are assumed dead. Federal law requires that a recovered gray wolf population be documented in each of three recovery areas (Yellowstone, central Idaho, and northwestern Montana) before they can be removed from the endangered species list. A recovered population is defined as a minimum of 10 pairs of wolves breeding for three consecutive years in each of the recovery areas.



The U.S. District Court for Wyoming ruled Dec. 12 that the gray wolf reintroduction in Yellowstone and central Idaho was unlawful because the animals were designated a nonessential experimental population, which allows wolves that are wounding or killing livestock on private land to be killed. The court held that because other endangered wolves (not part of the experimental population) already in the areas or coming into the areas might also be killed if they preyed on stock, the designation violated their protected status under the Endangered Species Act. The ruling is being appealed.

Visitor Center Planned for 'Ding' Darling Refuge

Elsie Davis, External Affairs, Southeast Region

Refuge staff at J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge in Sanibel, Florida, recently hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for a \$2 million, 11,000-square-foot visitor center. Fund-raising efforts spearheaded by the non-profit 'Ding' Darling Wildlife Society have already raised more than half of the projected construction cost, according to Southeast Regional Director **Sam Hamilton**. Other participants at the ceremony included **Steve Thompson**, newly appointed assistant regional director for Refuges and Wildlife; **Kip Koss**, grandson of 'Ding' Darling; **Wally Kain**, Mayor of Sanibel, Florida; and **Bill Ashe**, president of the National Wildlife Refuge Association.

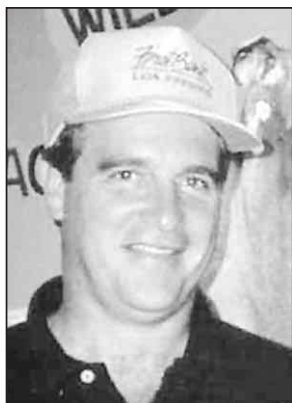
"This is a big day for the refuge, the Southeast Region, and the Fish and Wildlife Service and is as good an example of partnership as you will ever see," Hamilton said at the Jan. 31 ceremony. The visitor center, which will be located at the entrance of the refuge's Wildlife Drive and is expected to be completed in less than two years, will feature four major exhibits. The first will focus on mangrove ecology and wildlife including the life cycle of an alligator and bird rookery sites. The second will highlight the history of wildlife conservation, with information about the nation's first national wildlife refuge at Pelican Island in Florida; the Endangered Species Act; and well-known wildlife conservationists—**Rachel Carson**, **Aldo Leopold**, and **President Teddy Roosevelt**.

The third exhibit will feature neotropical migratory songbirds such as indigo buntings and warblers, and the fourth will profile J.N. 'Ding' Darling, the political cartoonist for whom the refuge was named. The center will also house a children's discovery room with interactive exhibits about mangrove ecosystems and bird life, a large auditorium, and an observation deck overlooking an adjacent pond.



Standing ready with their shovels are, from left, Bill Rankin, a project consultant for the 'Ding' Darling Wildlife Society, Sanibel Mayor Wally Kain, Refuge Manager Lou Hinds, and Southeast Regional Director Sam Hamilton. Photo by Norman Honest

Thompson Tapped for Southeast Post



Diana M. Hawkins

Steve Thompson, who has served 22 years with the Department, has been named assistant Southeast regional director for Refuges and Wildlife in Atlanta, Georgia. "Steve has dedicated his career to the conservation of wildlife and its habitats and brings to the Southeast an impressive battery of leadership skills," said Southeast Regional Director **Sam D. Hamilton**. "We are happy to welcome him to Atlanta to join our Region's management team." Hamilton noted that Thompson has received a number of awards, including Refuge Manager of the Year for 1994. Thompson comes to his new assignment from the Service's Washington, D.C., office, where he served two and a half

years as branch chief, Resource Management, National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters. Prior to that, he served six years as manager of the 45,000-acre Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge near Harlingen, Texas. A native of Nevada, Thompson in 1976 joined the Bureau of Land Management as a range conservationist, serving in Boise, Idaho, and Burns, Oregon. He graduated Humboldt State University in California, with a BS degree in wildlife management.

In the Southeast, the National Wildlife Refuge System consists of 116 refuges encompassing 3.2 million acres in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, Tennessee, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. As the region's geographic assistant regional director for Area III, He also will oversee the activities of five ecological service field stations and one national fish hatchery in three Southeastern states and the Caribbean.

Gerry Jackson Named Assistant Director

Cindy Hoffman

Gerry Jackson, a 25-year veteran of the Service, has been named assistant director for Ecological Services. "Mr. Jackson's academic background and diverse Service experience makes him an excellent choice for this position," Director Clark said in announcing the appointment. "I am thrilled to have him in this leadership position. He brings an amazing breadth of wildlife management experience. During his career, he has served with distinction in a variety of field, research, and management positions, which has given him a deep understanding of the agency, its mission, its culture, and most importantly, the direction the Service needs to move in the future."

Jackson has worked for the Service at the field, regional, and national levels, and has lived or worked in every geographic region of the United States except Alaska. In 1992, he transferred to Portland, Oregon, where he served as the deputy assistant regional director for Ecological Services in the Service's Pacific Region. He helped manage the region's endangered species, environmental contaminants, and habitat conservation programs. Jackson helped guide the Service's implementation of President's Forest Plan to protect old-growth-dependent species, including the northern spotted owl and the marbled murrelet.

In 1995, he returned to Washington, D.C., to assume the duties of deputy assistant director for Ecological Services under the direction of Clark. Jackson was born in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, but moved to Gulfport, Mississippi, with his family when he was 10.

Coastal Wetlands Projects Funded

Rachel Levin

A variety of fish, wildlife, and plants from shortnose sturgeon to red-legged frogs to native seagrasses will benefit from nearly \$10 million in wetlands conservation grants that the Service will award in 1998. The FWS National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants program will fund 20 projects in 13 states, including Alabama, California, Maine, Delaware, Florida, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, Oregon, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin. The projects involve the acquisition and restoration of more than 13,000 acres of sensitive coastal wetlands.

"These grants will help to healing our wounded waterways by conserving coastal wetlands that provide habitat for a broad diversity of plants, mammals, fish, waterfowl and shorebirds," Director Clark said in announcing the awards. "Coastal areas also support our livelihood by generating billions of dollars annually through industries such as tourism, transport, and commercial fishing, making these projects doubly important."

Since 1990, when the program was created under the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act, the Service has awarded more than \$43 million to 24 coastal states and a U.S. territory for the conservation of more than 63,000 acres of vital coastal wetlands. The Service makes yearly matching grants to these local governments for projects that acquire, restore, or enhance coastal wetlands, which must be administered for long-term conservation benefits. All grants are awarded through a competitive process. Funding comes from excise taxes on fishing equipment and motorboat and small engine fuels. These taxes are deposited into the Sport Fish Restoration Account of the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund (commonly called Wallop-Breaux after its sponsors).

\$1.4 BILLION BUDGET REQUESTED FOR FY 1999

The record \$1.42 billion budget for the Service in fiscal year 1999 includes \$826.3 million, an 11-percent increase, in appropriated funding to support endangered species, national wildlife refuges, migratory bird, fisheries, land acquisition, construction, and other programs. Highlights of the proposed budget include:

- ▶ \$246.4 million for the National Wildlife Refuge System, a \$25.9 million, or 11.7 percent, increase. Of this, \$199.8 million will be for refuge operations, an increase of \$15 million over FY98, to help fund 232 new projects at 152 refuges and wetland management districts to recover endangered species; restore or improve more than 54,000 acres of habitat; serve 1.1 million new visitors; expand public and private partnerships; and hire 87 refuge management, biological, and maintenance staff members.
- ▶ \$112.9 million for the Service's Endangered Species program, an increase of \$35.8 million, or 46 percent, to support more effective implementation of the Act, strengthen partnerships with other public agencies and private interests, and increase the flexibility and certainty provided to private landowners.
- ▶ a \$3 million, or 50 percent, increase in assistance to states for habitat conservation planning land acquisition under the Cooperative Endangered Species Fund.
- ▶ increase fisheries funding by \$4.4 million, or 6 percent, to support the Southwest Ecosystem Initiative, aquatic nuisance species control, aquatic habitat restoration projects, and projects to improve fish passage in streams and rivers.
- ▶ \$64.9 million, an increase of \$5.7 million, or 10 percent, for habitat conservation. About \$900,000 would be used to address an additional 40 to 50 major water development projects scheduled for relicensing by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.
- ▶ \$2.5 million for Partners for Fish and Wildlife, a program to help private landowners voluntarily restore wetlands on their property as part of the Clean Water and Watershed Restoration Initiative.
- ▶ \$1 million to assess how pesticides and other contaminants affect wildlife and habitat on national wildlife refuges.
- ▶ a \$1.3 million increase, or 7 percent, for the Service's migratory bird management. This includes \$300,000 to support the Southwest Initiative, \$400,000 to begin carrying out recent amendments to the U.S.-Canada migratory bird protocol, and \$200,000 to address the problem of overabundant populations of snow geese and the ecological damage they are doing to their arctic nesting grounds.
- ▶ a \$3 million, or 26 percent, increase for the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund, as part of the Clean Water and Watershed Restoration Initiative, to support voluntary partnerships to conserve and restore wetland ecosystems throughout North America. The \$14.7 million budget would generate about \$29 million in matching funds from partners and allow acquisition, restoration, or enhancement of 245,000 acres of wetlands.

U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs



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Working with the Best Kept Secret in U.S. Higher Education

The presidents of leading tribal colleges recently met with top Interior officials to begin developing plans for expanding cooperation and providing assistance to the schools. The meeting was part of a Clinton Administration initiative that offers tribal colleges greater opportunities for working with federal agencies that can provide technical, financial, and administrative support to Indian education.

The initiative was launched by Executive Order No. 13021—Tribal Colleges and Universities, which reaffirmed the Federal Government's special relationship to American Indians and Alaska Natives and provided tribal colleges the status of other minority colleges that are eligible for special federal support.

More than 40 representatives from tribal colleges, including presidents, trustees, and students, participated in the Feb. 3 consultation. The Department representatives included **Robert Stanton**, director of the National Park Service, **David Montoya**, deputy assistant secretary for Workforce Diversity, and **Michael Anderson**, deputy assistant secretary for Indian Affairs.

Gerald 'Carty' Monette, president of Turtle Mountain Community College and current president of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, spoke on behalf of the schools, explaining the historical development of the tribal college movement over the last few decades and providing insights into its current priorities. He said tribal colleges were "underfunded miracles" and had been described "as the best kept secret in American higher education" by the Carnegie Foundation.

Dr. Monette welcomed the opportunity the Department was providing for collaboration with tribal colleges and expressed appreciation for the role the Secretary and others in Interior had played in developing and pushing the executive order. The order was developed by the White House Domestic Policy Council's Working Group On American Indians and Alaska Natives which is chaired by Secretary Babbitt.

On behalf of Interior, **Mari R. Barr**, deputy assistant secretary for Human Resources, reaffirmed the Department's commitment to tribal colleges and assured the representatives that the bureaus and offices were developing a strategic plan to meet the requirements of the executive order.

Barr, the keynote speaker for the event, emphasized that it was in the nation's and the Department's best interests to embrace tribal colleges for the unique resources they

FY 1999 BUDGET SEEKS INCREASES FOR BIA SCHOOLS & TRIBAL PRIORITIES

In addition to improving law enforcement services, the BIA's \$1.84-billion budget request for fiscal year 1999 focuses on providing quality education in structurally sound and comfortable school facilities and fulfilling the Interior Secretary's trust responsibilities for natural resources management and trust systems improvement. The proposed budget reflects a net increase of \$142.1 million above the 1998 enacted level.

Education: A strong commitment to the future of American Indian youth is at the core of the \$486.9-million school-operations budget, which provides a \$26.5-million increase over the 1998 level. The budget funds 185 schools and dormitories serving over 53,000 elementary and secondary students in 23 states. The additional funds are needed to ensure that schools maintain accreditation and meet a three-percent increase in school enrollment.

An \$86.6-million school-facilities construction request is the largest portion of the overall BIA construction appropriation of \$152.1 million. The Replacement School Construction program funds the replacement of older, unsafe schools on reservations according to a congressionally-approved priority list that includes 16 schools. And \$37.4 million is requested to complete construction of three schools—Seba Dalkai Boarding School in Arizona, Sac & Fox School in Iowa, and Pyramid Lake High School in Nevada. The BIA's Budget for Education Construction should allow the construction of all remaining schools on the priority list by Year 2001.



This team of reclamation specialists from the Hopi Tribe won an Office of Surface Mining Employee Recognition Award for outstanding achievement in accomplishing the goals and objectives of the Abandoned Mine Land Program through public outreach to the community. Story, page 15.



At top from left, Veronica Gonzalez, the executive director of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium chats with Carty Monette, consortium president. At top right, Loretta DeLong, at left, superintendent for education at Turtle Mountain School District (Belcourt, N.D.) talks with Bill Mehajah, at center, the deputy director of the Office of Indian Education Programs, and Bob Martin, president of Haskell Indian Nations University. Above at left, Bruce Crespín, BLM-New Mexico discusses session topics with Tom Fry, deputy director of BLM. Above right, seated from left, are Deputy Assistant Secretary Mari Barr, Dolores Chacon, director of Interior's Office of National Service and Educational Partnerships, and Deputy Assistant Secretary Michael Anderson (at podium). Photos by Tami Heilemann ISC

offer and the valuable service they provide in preparing American Indian students to enter into socially and personally productive careers. Supporting these schools helps the Department to fulfill its responsibility to promote the advancement of Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

Barr asked the tribal college presidents to begin to focus on four areas of action with Interior bureaus and offices: 1) to increase the quality and amount of laboratory, computer, and other technical equipment and technology that can be transferred to tribal colleges; 2) to increase the number of tribal college students participating in internships and receiving on-campus support and training; 3) to prepare tribal colleges to successfully compete for research projects and related opportunities; and 4) to increase support and assistance from the private sector.

Deputy Assistant Secretary Anderson told the representatives that the Department's fiscal year 1999 budget reflected increased requests for funding tribal colleges. Interior's Office of National Service and Educational Partnerships hosted the orientation session, which was held as part of the winter meeting of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium.

For more information, contact the Office of Indian Education Programs at (202) 208-4871 about tribal colleges; the Office of National Service and Educational Partnerships at (202) 208-6403 about Native American higher education; or, **Ed Simermeyer** about Executive Order No. 13021—Tribal Colleges and Universities, at (202) 208-7956.

The education facilities improvement and repair program is funded at \$46.2 million, an increase of \$14 million, to address critical health and safety concerns in the \$695-million backlog of repair work in existing education facilities. The budget also provides a \$5.5-million increase for operating grants to 26 tribally-controlled community colleges. The colleges play an essential role in preparing American Indians for professions and entrepreneurship.

Tribal Priority Allocations is requesting \$791.4 million, an increase of \$34 million over last year. The budget includes a \$4-million increase for contract support funds to cover the administrative expenses incurred by tribes when contracting BIA programs. An increase of \$5 million is requested to replenish the Indian Self-Determination Fund. In response to documented increases in the incidence of child abuse and family violence, the budget includes an increase of \$5 million to help tribes protect children from abuse and neglect, and reduce domestic violence. The BIA anticipates that about half of the 1999 operating budget will be spent directly by tribes that elect to operate various BIA programs under Self-Determination contracts, grants, or Self-Governance compacts. Self-Governance compacts, which give tribes greater flexibility to administer BIA programs, now number 64 and will rise to 74 in 1999.

Natural Resources: The budget seeks an increase of \$16.8 million for natural resource trust programs, many of which will help save significant additional costs in the future. Among the trust increases are an additional \$3.5 million for water-rights studies and negotiations to help avoid expensive litigation, and a \$5-million increase to initiate a water-quality and watershed-management planning program for reservation lands in the Missouri, Rio Grande, Columbia, and Colorado River basins. The Department proposes a \$10-million increase for the establishment and implementation of a pilot land-acquisition program on one or more Indian reservations to consolidate fractionated ownership of Indian lands.

Low BIA Overhead: For the past four years, the BIA's administrative costs have been among the lowest in the Federal Government, consistently providing **more than 90 percent of the operating budget to education and other on-the-ground programs at the reservation level.** The bureau is staffed at its lowest level in 15 years and has reduced positions by more than 2,500 since 1994.

An accredited community college, SIPI is the only post-secondary institution in the SW that is operated through the Bureau of Indian Affairs. SIPI's programs are featured on pages 30-31.

Assistant Secretaries Gover and Berry Deliver Encouraging BIA Education Budget News

Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs **Kevin Gover** and Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget **John Berry** reassured tribal leaders in North and South Dakota during a Jan. 20-24 visit that help is on the way for BIA schools.

President Clinton’s 1999 fiscal year budget proposal requests \$46.2 million for improving and repairing BIA schools, an increase of \$14 million over last year, while \$87 million is requested for the construction of new school buildings. (See article on BIA’s FY99 education budget request.)

“It is fair to say for Indian education construction, the numbers are the highest they have been in a decade,” Assistant Secretary Berry told tribal leaders. “And the increase in the Indian programs generally will be among the highest in many years.”

After listening to tribal leaders’ concerns, Gover agreed that many BIA schools in the region are in poor condition, but said that education programs are stronger than ever. “The Tribes really run the bureau’s schools,” Gover told a Jan. 20 meeting at the United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck. “This is a trend we are hoping will continue.” But the facilities have been neglected for far too long, he added.

For some years, the BIA has been unable to get the money from Congress to carry out the needed repairs. “I believe there’s now a lot of good will in Congress to repair and renovate BIA schools,” said Gover, who joined **Sens. Byron Dorgan and Kent Conrad** of North Dakota at meetings with tribal leaders. “It’s my job to convince them we can spend the money and spend it well.”

Twelve BIA schools in North and South Dakota provide educational services to 4,200 students. Several of those schools are slated for repair and refurbishing under the FY99 budget. The BIA funds and operates 185 Indian schools across the nation, most in North and South Dakota, Arizona, New Mexico, and Washington State.

After listening to Gover and Berry, **Raphael De Coteau**, the chairman of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, said he was optimistic for the first time in 20 years that the Federal Government might do something about the condition of BIA schools in the area. “I am optimistic because I have been waiting 20 years for someone to say what he [Gover] said—that the community where the activity is happening needs to make the decision of how the money should be spent and what their needs are.”

A recently-released GAO report found that BIA schools are in worse physical shape than inner-city schools. About 62 percent of the schools have at least one building in need of extensive repair or replacement, compared to 38 percent of inner-city public schools.



Assistant Secretary Gover pledges his help to tribal leaders at the United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck, N.D.

BIA has a \$695 million backlog of school maintenance and repairs because of the lack of funding from Congress.

Summit at Standing Rock

At a Jan. 21 meeting at Fort Yates, S.D., Gover and Berry listened as tribal and community leaders searched for solutions to what they called an epidemic of teenage suicides. Two days earlier, a 19-year old Bear Soldier youth, **George Weasel Jr.**, had committed suicide after returning from a funeral of a friend who had committed suicide. That brought the recent teenage suicide toll to five in McLaughlin, which has about 800 residents and is largest town on the 2.3 million-acre reservation.

Parents, teachers, social workers, psychiatrists and other mental health workers have been working on ways to deal with the crisis since it began about four months ago. They shared some of the underlying causes with Gover: three out of four adults in the area don’t have jobs; half the students at the tribally run school drop out before high school; most of the drop-outs come from broken families; in 1997, almost 150 children on the reservation were placed in foster care—97 percent of them were abandoned or neglected; facing a seemingly hopeless situation, many troubled youngsters begin roaming with gangs.

“To me there’s nothing so heartbreaking as the thought of children being so desperate, so hopeless, that they will take their own lives,” Gover said. “Our children do not come into this world wanting to commit suicide. Something is terribly wrong when in just a few short years we bring them to despair.”



Sen. Tim Johnson (D-S.D.), at right, joins Duane Big Eagle, chairman of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, center, and Gover, left, at a meeting with tribal leaders.

Both Indian and non-Indian leaders in McLaughlin are working on ways to address the problem. One group, for example, is converting the town’s boarded-up theater into a restaurant, weight room, and playhouse. The restaurant could be used to teach teenagers how to run a business, while the parking lot could be used as a hockey rink in the winter and basketball



Assistant Secretaries John Berry (Policy, Management and Budget) and Kevin Gover (Indian Affairs) observe a classroom at a BIA school in North Dakota during their visit to the region earlier this year.

Gover and Berry join Charles Murphy, chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, at center; Sen. Kent Conrad (D-ND), second from right; and Cora Jones, the director of the BIA’s Aberdeen Area Office, at far right.



courts in the summer. Standing Rock students proposed building a dormitory on the campus of Standing Rock Community School to house many of the 300 students attending the BIA-funded school.

Gover reflected on the irony of that remedy. “That’s tragic when you think about it, what we’re admitting is they’re not even safe in their own homes. We’ll send whatever expertise we can, but there is nothing more significant going on in your community than this crisis,” Gover said. “Defending treaty rights, fighting for sovereignty, none of that matters if we’re not dealing with these problems, and I tell you these problems are not just here on Standing Rock.”



Students at a BIA-funded elementary school greet the Interior delegation.

The assistant secretary asked tribal leaders to provide him with a list of their short-term needs to stop the suicides and work on mental health issues, and then to develop a list of long-term goals and objectives and a strategy to combat gangs, violence, drug, alcohol, and gambling addictions, and child abuse.

LAW ENFORCEMENT IMPROVEMENTS CRITICAL TO TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

Crime is seriously hindering Indian Tribes’ efforts to establish stability in their communities, Assistant Secretary Gover warned as he announced a new initiative to address the problem. “The homicide rate on Indian lands has surpassed levels in many large American cities.” That rate has increased 87 percent over the past five years, according to government statistics. Nationwide, the homicide rate has dropped about 22 percent.

To deal with this critical issue, BIA and the Department of Justice are seeking budget increases in fiscal year 1999 that would double federal funding for law enforcement in Indian country. A centerpiece of the BIA’s 1999 budget request is a \$25 million increase to launch a four-year effort to dramatically improve law enforcement services. The BIA would use this increase to strengthen core services such as hiring uniformed police and criminal investigators, and providing basic detention services. The Department of Justice plans to use \$157 million in redirected and new funds for detention center construction, juvenile justice, and other targeted programs.

The funding proposal was recommended by an Executive Committee of tribal leaders and federal staff who analyzed ways to reduce Indian Country’s rising rate of homicide and violent crime. President Clinton directed Interior Secretary Babbitt and Attorney General Reno to form the Executive Committee last year. The committee and the tribes strongly recommended additional funds for long-term improvements in Indian Country law enforcement service. The Clinton Administration rejected an earlier Justice Department plan to take over law enforcement on Indian reservations.

In January, Reno and Babbitt recommended to President Clinton that three major law enforcement programs—criminal investigations, uniformed police, and detention services—be consolidated under the line and budget authority of the BIA Office of Law Enforcement Services. The Department of Justice will assist with training and technical assistance.

Bureau of Land Management



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HATFIELD NAMED DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Nina Rose Hatfield, a 20-year veteran of the Department who led major budget and reengineering initiatives for the bureau, has been named deputy director of the BLM. She joins **Tom Fry** as one of the BLM's two deputy directors.

"Nina brings with her an array of managerial skills and outstanding leadership qualities," said BLM **Director Pat Shea**. "She has already demonstrated these qualities by taking the lead in the BLM's implementation of the Government Performance and Results Act." GPRA mandates that federal agencies include customer input and performance measures in their long-range plans required by Congress. "I also look forward to using Nina's expertise in budget issues," Shea added.

Hatfield most recently served as the BLM's assistant director for Business and Fiscal Resources, a position in which she exercised responsibility over matters relating to finance, budget, and acquisition. In that capacity, Hatfield handled various re-engineering initiatives aimed at improving the BLM's efficiency.

Hatfield succeeds **Mat Millenbach**, who left the bureau in November 1997 to become program manager for Interior's Natural Resource Damage Assessment Program. Before joining the BLM, Hatfield served as assistant deputy director and director of the Ohio Field Office of the Office of Surface Mining. She came to OSM after working for the Ohio Attorney General's Office and Interior's Office of the Solicitor, where she compiled a distinguished record in litigation and the development of legislation. Hatfield, a member of the Ohio Bar, earned her undergraduate and law degrees from Indiana University. She is married to **W. Hord Tipton**, the director of the BLM's Eastern States Office.



Nina Rose Hatfield

COLORADO MANAGER RECEIVES SAFETY AWARD



Carl Gossard, fire management officer in Colorado, was presented the Jerry Mauk Memorial Award for his outstanding achievements in improving fire safety. Gossard has provided strong leadership to ensure that fire management personnel and managers at all levels of the organization understand their role and accountability for safety. The Jerry Mauk Memorial Award, begun in 1987, recognizes special achievement in safety for the BLM Fire Management Program and serves as memorial to the former chief of the Division of Fire and Aviation Management. Gossard received an engraved plaque that is on permanent display in the Main Interior Building.

Carl Gossard

ARCHAEOLOGIST'S WORK IN SCIENCE MAGAZINE

BLM Archaeologist **John Roney** of the Albuquerque, New Mexico, Field Office wrote an article entitled *A Massive Terraced Village Complex in Chihuahua, Mexico, 3000 Years Before Present*, which will be published this spring in *Science Magazine*. This journal is an international scientific publication of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Based on field research on one of the earliest (1100 BC) constructed village sites in the southwestern U.S./Northwestern Mexico region, the article provides startling new evidence that is likely to change current thinking on the initial spread of agriculture into this area.

Roney spent much of his personal leave over the past several years in Chihuahua, Mexico, conducting field work at the site under a National Science Foundation Grant. The unexpected results of his field studies challenge the widely held theory that agricultural activities were incidental to a hunting/gathering lifestyle in the late archaic period. The research and article are part of a collaborative effort between John Roney and **Dr. Robert Hard**, a professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

BRUSHING UP ON CUSTOMER SERVICE



Staff assistants from the Washington Office and Eastern States Director's Office listen to Johari Rashad, a BLM program analyst, during her recent presentation on the Changing Work Place at a BLM-sponsored customer service workshop at the Office of Personnel Management Headquarters Building in Washington, D.C. The focus was improving service to internal and external customers, particularly timeliness and quality of products and services. The workshop's recommendations were presented to BLM Director Pat Shea, who said a follow-up conference would be held within 12 months. A communications training session between Washington Office staff assistants and managers will be held in a few months.



\$1.2 Billion Requested in Balanced Budget Proposal

The proposed fiscal year 1999 budget of \$1.23 billion, a \$95.8 million increase over 1998, is "a progressive budget request that will significantly enhance the protection and management of public land resources for the benefit of all who use and enjoy BLM-managed lands," said **Director Pat Shea**. "At the same time, this budget request fits within President Clinton's balanced budget proposal."

The BLM is requesting \$6.8 million to implement the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project to support a sustainable, environmentally sound supply of natural resource products. The budget also proposes \$41 million for continued strategic implementation of the President's Forest Plan, which seeks to provide for forest diversity and sustainable timber harvest while improving fish and wildlife habitat; soil, water and air quality; recreation opportunities; and economic stability.

In addition, the budget proposes an increase of \$16 million and \$800,000, respectively, to implement Vice President Gore's Clean Water and Watershed Restoration Initiative and the Southwest Conservation Strategy. "The BLM will aggressively implement the Clinton Administration's clean water initiative," Shea said. "This will include projects to stop water pollution at additional abandoned hardrock mine sites, to reduce the Colorado River's salinity, and to restore watersheds."

The request also includes \$120 million for Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT), which help counties provide vital services to local residents. "This is the largest PILT budget ever requested by any administration," Shea said. "This funding will enable the Federal Government to meet its responsibilities to rural communities throughout the West."

For the first time, the BLM has completed its budget request under the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA). The proposal provides for results-oriented objectives planned for 1999 and is consistent with the agency's Strategic Plan goals. Shea said the recent appointment of BLM Deputy Director Nina Hatfield would help the agency implement its congressionally mandated Strategic Plan. "As the BLM's assistant director for Business and Fiscal Resources, Nina took the lead in developing the BLM's response to GPRA," Shea said.

The BLM's requested 1999 budget is directed toward meeting each of the Strategic Plan goals, which are: to serve current and future publics, restore and maintain the health of the land, promote collaborative management, improve business practices, and human resources management.



Director Pat Shea

"The West is changing," Shea said. "A growing and increasingly urban population is placing new demands on the public lands. And the BLM is changing, too. Our Strategic Plan gives us the foundation we need to make sure we pass on our public land legacy to those who come after us. We at the BLM will continue to implement our Strategic Plan, measure our performance, and report our progress to the American people."

Under the BLM's goal of serving current and future publics, funding priorities include \$6.4 million for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah (including completion of its long-range management plan); \$11 million for geospatial, cartographic, and other enhancements to the Automated Land and Mineral Record System; and an additional \$7.6 million for maintenance of recreation-related and other facilities on BLM-managed lands.

Shea, a native of Salt Lake City, hailed the development of the management plan for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument as "an example of collaborative planning at its best." Shea also touted funding for completing the Automated Land and Mineral Record System (ALMRS), a computerized information system that automates more than 200 years of U.S. land-related history and more than one billion individual land and mineral records.

ALMRS will link, for the first time, maps and case files onto a single desktop system, which will enable the BLM and the general public to access information faster and more easily. "When I was confirmed last summer as Director of the BLM, I made ALMRS completion one of my top priorities," Shea said. "The ALMRS system will provide remarkable benefits for all users of the public lands, and this budget will help us bring those benefits on-line."

Shea also noted that the 1999 budget includes a 13 percent proposed increase in funding for the maintenance of recreation sites, roads, trails, and buildings. The 1999 budget also supports improvements to landscape health with its proposed \$3.5 million in additional funding for controlling noxious weeds and for restoring and improving Western rangelands.

BLM-ALASKA HONORS MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE EMPLOYEES, 27

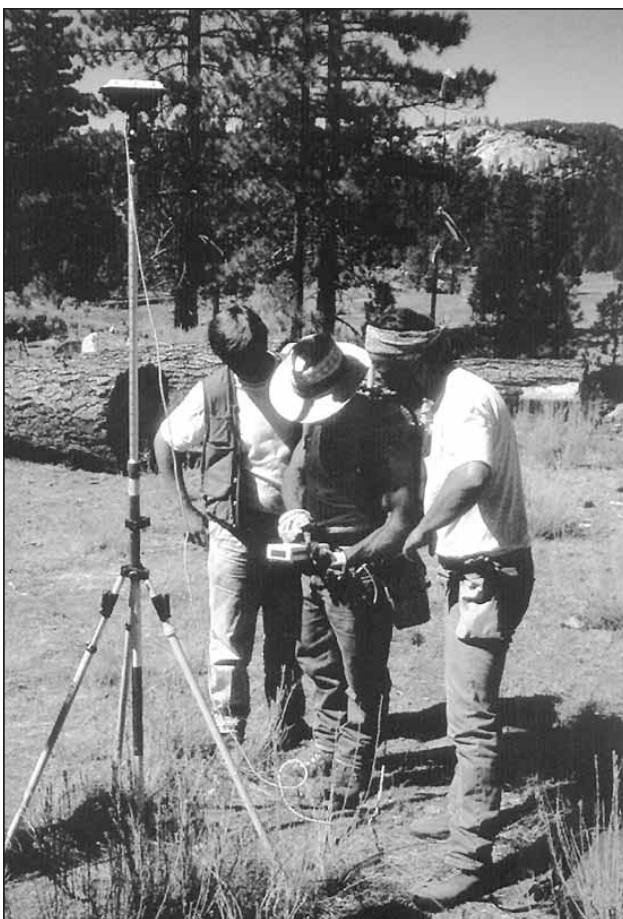
USING GIS TECHNOLOGY TO MANAGE FOSSIL RESOURCES

Laurie Bryant, Regional Paleontologist,
Casper District Office

BLM has three staff paleontologists. That works out to about 80 million acres apiece. Each of us has a region of four states in which we issue permits or advise on the permit process, review environmental and planning documents, and generally try to provide expertise to local managers and their staffs.

It's too much. So last year I began to develop a way to integrate the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) with paleontological data to create a decision model for fossils on public lands. The model is based on BLM policies and some basic concepts of paleontology. BLM policies stress the protection of vertebrate fossils, educational uses of public lands, and recreational collecting of invertebrates and petrified wood. The decision model therefore must provide a way to identify geologic units where these kinds of fossils are known to exist, areas where there are outcrops of those units (bare rock where soil and vegetation don't obscure the fossils), and access to these areas on public land.

But I could never have gone beyond the concept level without a lot of help. **Cathleen May**, then with the USDA Forest Service, developed an objective approach to determining which geologic units are the most paleontologically sensitive, and provided suggestions for their management. Casper District Manager **Don Hinrichsen** put me in contact with the National Applied Resource Sciences Center where geospatial alchemists **Neffra Matthews** and **Steve Gregonis**, with some good advice from **Jim Turner**, located and brought in the digital data that we needed, and created innovative ways to query and display it.



They spent almost a month just finding and formatting data layers on geology, soil, vegetation, topography, roads, land status, and streams for our pilot project area in southwest Wyoming. They found satellite imagery, added on-the-ground photographs, and text. Fossil locality information from the University of Colorado Museum's database was used to test the model.

These data layers can be seen and worked with in ArcView, a software that is produced by ESRI Corp. of Redlands, California. They can be overlain, queried, and calculations can be made about the area shown. For our project, we wanted to delimit all the areas on public land where the Bridger Formation (Eocene, about 50 million years old) wasn't covered by soil or vegetation. We wanted to know which of those areas were accessible by road, and which weren't too steep to work on.

The result revealed those areas where we could expect to have fossil localities where crocodiles, turtles, fish, and primitive mammals might be found. Those are areas where management attention needs to be focused to encourage scientific research, limit unauthorized collection, and provide for assessment and mitigation in the case of surface-disturbing developments.

We used ArcView to identify only the areas where important fossils are likely to be found. Although the Bridger Formation underlies about 400,000 acres in the project area, conditions favoring fossil collecting exist on less than 60 percent of that. GIS made it possible to cut our paleontological workload almost in half. In areas where the geologic units are less sensitive paleontologically, management concerns will be even more limited, and BLM's paleontologists can spend their time and efforts where they make the most sense.

BLM-Montana Staff Spearheads Training the Trainer Program



What is wrong with this picture? A few students, Andrew Krenz, Barb Jensen, foreground, and Linda Novak, smile while taking final exam!

A combination indoor-outdoor classroom provided the setting as the students compared the course's message to the inspirational writing of **Aldo Leopold** in *Sand County Almanac*. They wrote about their favorite passage from *Almanac*, which is considered by many a literary pillar of the U.S. environmental movement. The students also discussed environmental values and ethics, and demonstrated outdoor skills and leadership ability.

It was all part of the required work for *Leave No Trace, Skills and Environmental Ethics—Train the Trainer's*. The course, which offered students a one semester college science credit, was arranged through the Fort Peck Community College, located on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Poplar, Montana, with the assistance of **Mary Skordinsky** and **Duane Julien**—the BLM-Montana staff Leave No Trace master instructors.

The six principles of Leave No Trace (LNT) were thoroughly discussed in the classroom: plan ahead and prepare; travel and camp on durable surfaces; pack it in, pack it out; properly dispose of what you can't pack out; leave what you find (i.e. artifacts and plants, etc.); and minimize the use and impact of fires. The students applied these principles to the outdoor environment on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers public lands adjacent to the Missouri River.

When they completed the course, the students were awarded Leave No Trace Trainer Certificates, as well as their grades. Student **Scott Swain**, representing the Boy's and Girl's Club of Wolf Point, Montana, said they would pass the message to many of the youth belonging to this organization. These young people are in the position to make a difference among peers by making the right choices and acting responsibly in the great outdoors.

"By taking this course I see the benefit of protecting the environment and now will be able to teach the principles of LNT to others," said **Dick Rossignol**, a Montana school administrator. "This will result in the public enjoying the outdoor environment in the way it was meant to be enjoyed, appreciated, and used." **Larry Leonard**, a physical education teacher, reiterated that sentiment. "This course has given me more skills to use when camping to ensure the camping area will remain in the same condition for other people to use, and I will share the six principles of LNT with others." Larry is involved in a summer camp program in the Beartooth Mountains of Montana.

Barb Jensen, a Montana public school teacher, was pleased with this new training. "LNT gave me insight as to how fragile the natural environment can be. I now realize that the LNT principles don't require much extra effort, only some extra thought. If I follow the philosophy and principles of LNT, I will help the great outdoors remain natural." LNT Master Instructors Duane and Mary taught another course in mid-October and plan to contact more colleges and universities to establish accreditation procedures for the Leave No Trace, Train the Trainer Program.



Students from left to right: Larry Leonard, Scott Swain, and Dick Rossignol practice water purification techniques away from the delicate Missouri River banks in Montana. Photos by Mary Skordinsky, BLM Leave No Trace Master

Ghost Riders On Public Lands

20th Century Fox will apply for a permit to film portions of *Ghost Riders in the Sky* on land administered by the BLM's Moab Field Office in Utah. The company wants to build a large Pueblo set and film scenes with a cavalry troop of more than 400 riders at a remote location 30 miles outside the town of Moab. Access is difficult and would require road improvements if the company's preferred location—Determination Towers—is authorized.

The company has stated that it would like to begin set construction in April; however, it has yet to file its formal application. The Moab Field Office estimates that at least 90 days will be needed to complete the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) process once an application is received. The local BLM office is working closely with location scouts and company personnel, helping them to complete the film permit application and explore an alternative site, as well as to clarify deadlines to meet the tight film schedule.

VISA Training on Internet

Cynthia Martin, Washington, D.C.

BLM is offering an Internet training program for employees holding VISA purchase cards and approving officials. The training is for employees and their supervisors who have a need to buy items needed for job performance that cost less than \$2,500. This course is designed to make learning the proper use of the purchase card simple and almost as easy as using the card itself. The training is limited to only the procurement regulations and purchase card program requirements that cardholders and approving officials need to know. The program uses an electronic quick reference tool. The training will eventually include automated links to on-line ordering. Visit the training site at www.ntc.blm.gov/purchase

For more information, contact **Cynthia Martin** at (202) 452-5174 or by Email at c55marti@wo.blm.gov



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BACA REVIEWS OFFSHORE SAFETY PROCEDURES

John Romero

Sylvia Baca, Interior’s deputy assistant secretary for Land and Minerals, recently saw firsthand how employees on an offshore production rig respond to an emergency scenario.

Baca had joined MMS and state inspectors on the Chevron U.S.A.-operated *Platform Harvest*, which is located offshore of northern Santa Barbara County, California. The group had just finished a tour and briefing about the safety mechanisms on the huge, state-of-the-art, natural gas and oil production structure, when MMS called an unannounced oil spill drill to test the company’s response strategies.

Baca stood alongside MMS and state representatives on the top deck of the production platform to watch Chevron U.S.A. personnel rapidly carry out the company’s oil spill contingency plan. As workers ran through simulated platform shut down procedures, notifications of the spill drill were made to appropriate federal, state, and local agencies.

On the far side of the platform, a response vessel positioned itself along the leading edge of the phantom slick to deploy boom into the water to contain the imaginary oil. MMS Santa Maria District Supervisor **Phil Schroeder** and drilling engineer **Dan Knowlson** explained the company’s response actions on the facility and in nearby waters. Later, Knowlson conferred with Baca on the critical elements in assessing the company’s overall response efforts.

“Every platform offshore of California is subjected to unannounced spill drills and exercises throughout the year,” Knowlson said. He also pointed out that MMS routinely invites representatives from federal, state, and local agencies to participate in spill drills and exercises as a means of strengthening multi-agency cooperation in regional spill response.

“Emergency preparedness plays a critical role in ensuring overall offshore safety and environmental protection,” Baca added. “As illustrated today, MMS’ Oil Spill Drill and Exercise Program strives to ensure high levels of preparedness among offshore operators in federal waters. The end result means better contingency planning between industry and federal and state agencies.”

Interior Deputy Assistant Secretary Sylvia Baca and MMS Drilling Engineer Dan Knowlson discuss Chevron’s response efforts during a recent MMS oil spill drill on Platform Harvest, located in federal waters about seven miles off the coast of northern Santa Barbara County, California.



Response vessel Mr. Clean III is dispatched to head off the leading edge of an imaginary oil slick. The response vessel carries containment boom and oil recovery equipment used to retrieve oil from the water.

Platform Harvest stands in 675 feet of water about seven miles offshore. The natural gas and oil facility first began production in January 1984. According to MMS verified figures, *Harvest* produced about 13,000 barrels of oil and 8,000 million cubic feet of natural gas a day in 1997.

In addition to her review of *Platform Harvest* response efforts, Baca flew over the site of the September 1997 pipeline spill that occurred in state waters off of Vandenberg Air Force Base. The spill, estimated at 200 to 500 barrels, leaked from an offshore pipeline that was transporting crude oil from Torch Operating Company’s *Platform Irene* to an onshore processing facility.

Pacific Region engineer **Theresa Bell** escorted Baca on an aerial tour of the pipeline route and briefed her on local pipeline jurisdictional issues and on-going cooperation between federal, state, and local government to better manage the offshore California pipelines.

“All of the agencies involved share the same commitment to ensuring safe pipeline operations,” said Bell. “In fact, it was this cooperation between agencies throughout the *Irene* pipeline investigation and repair that enabled *Platform Irene* to resume production in a relatively short time.” The MMS oversaw the repair of the pipeline and took part in investigating the cause of the leak.

Common Sense and Technology

REGIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Royalty Management Program Staff

In a major effort combining common sense with technological advances, the MMS is carrying out many changes to the daily processes of its Royalty Management Program.

The initial improvements, which are a direct result of suggestions from the reengineering effort, town meetings, and employee and constituent recommendations, range from increased use of internal and external electronic mail, to the reduction of onsite audits, which were once standard procedure before record keeping evolved from paper files to electronic media.

Other changes include the use of electronic approval processes, enhanced training, and encouragement in the use of new technology. The Royalty Management Program is also assuring that live operator assistance is available for every phone line to augment electronic voice mail customer service. The new changes follow criteria that will benefit the organization by saving money, improving cycle and wait-time, removing non-value added steps, improving communication, or otherwise improving current processes.

The Royalty Management Program, comprised of more than 600 federal and 300 contractor employees, is responsible for collecting, accounting for, auditing, and disbursing revenues from gas, oil, and other mineral leases on federal and Indian lands. A variety of automated accounting systems are used for tracking and reconciling bonuses, rents, royalties, and other revenues from the more than 75,000 leases. These revenues, which came to \$5.5 billion in 1996, are distributed to states and special accounts of the U.S. Treasury, including the General Fund, the Reclamation Fund, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the Historic Preservation Fund.

The Royalty Management Program’s recently formed Program Reengineering Office is the focal point for the redesign of business processes, said **Lucy Querques Denett**, associate director for Royalty Management. “While the Program Reengineering Office is well into development of major innovations and revisions to the Royalty Management Program’s core business processes of money collection,

distribution, and verification, major reengineering changes might yet be two years away,” Querques Denett added. In the meantime, viable near-term changes should be implemented.

In accordance with Vice President Al Gore’s National Performance Review initiative, the Royalty Management Program is examining every aspect of its mission for improvement. MMS is working to develop a flexible and more cost-effective mineral revenue program for the 21st Century.

Gulf of Mexico Info Transfer Meeting

Gulf Region Staff

Entire sessions were dedicated to bi-national issues—a first for the information transfer meetings sponsored by the MMS’s Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Region.

The office’s most recent meeting drew favorable response from many of those who attended the sessions on U.S.- Mexico offshore energy issues, including three sessions devoted to cross-boundary issues. Other topics included physical oceanography, sea floor monitoring, oil-spill response, platform ecology, and Northeastern Gulf of Mexico Environmental Studies.

“Informative, interesting, and encouraging,” were some of the comments echoed by attendees. In addition, a bilingual exhibit, prepared by the Gulf of Mexico region visual information office, was featured to emphasize opportunities for cooperation and conservation with Mexico.

Information transfer meetings provide participants the opportunity to share current research, accomplishments, and issues of concern. Representatives of MMS, industry, and academia attend the sessions. Nearly 400 of the 500 representatives who registered attended the late December meeting, which was hosted by the Hotel Intercontinental in New Orleans.

MMS Employees Win Kelman Award

Nine MMS contracting specialists have been named the winners of the first annual Kelman Award for Outstanding Procurement Performance. The individual achievement award went to **David Sutfin**, the chief of the Procurement Operations Branch, and a group award was presented to Branch employees—**Wallace Adcox, Jane Carlson, Jackie Halprin, William Mallonee, Daniel McCarthy, Sandra McLaughlin, Virginia Taylor, and Katherine Valltos**. The Procurement Operations Branch is located at MMS headquarters in Herndon, Virginia.

“These award winners as well as every other individual and team nominated should be considered winners,” said **John Berry**, assistant secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget, in announcing the awards. “They are all exemplary for their innovative work combined with an entrepreneurial spirit and provide a model for procurement professionals.

The Kelman Award—the highest Departmental honor specifically presented for achievements in the field of acquisition—recognizes outstanding achievements by procurement professionals showing excellence in contracting. The award is named in honor of Dr. Steven Kelman, former administrator of OMB’s Office of Federal Procurement Policy. It was established to honor his energy, inspiration, and guidance in procurement reform initiatives.

Coffman Serves on National Panel



Kim Coffman

Stephen C. Shaffer

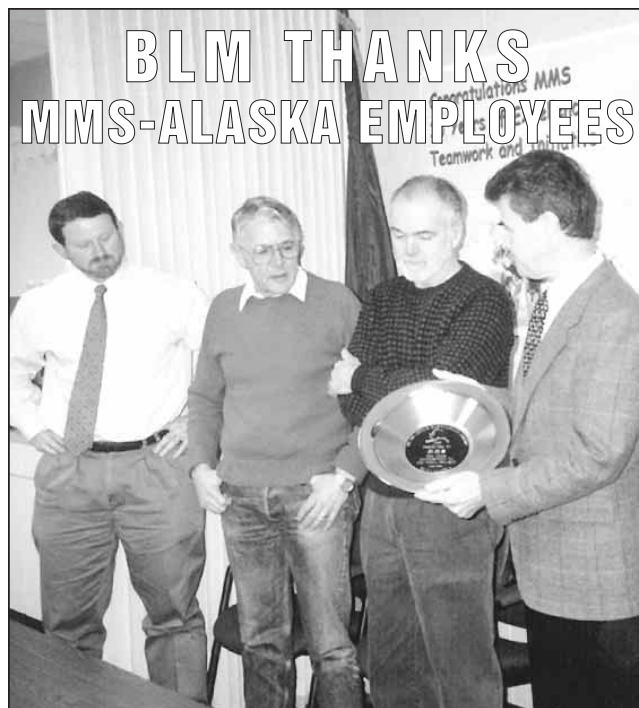
Kim Coffman, of the MMS Leasing Division, recently served on an Office of Personnel Management selection panel evaluating and assessing the Presidential Management Intern class of 1998. Coffman, a former presidential management intern from the class of 1985, helped to review the abilities of more than 400 candidates seeking appointments in the Washington, D.C. area.

The intern program has been attracting outstanding graduate students to federal service for the past 20 years. Established by an executive order in 1977, the program seeks to recruit men and women who show exceptional ability, possess a personal commitment to

excellence and a strong capacity for leadership, and have a demonstrated commitment to a career in public service.

Each year, up to 400 interns receive a two-year appointment to developmental positions in the Federal Government. During this period, they are challenged and developed by a variety of work assignments, training conferences, seminars, and career development group activities. Those who satisfactorily complete the program are eligible for noncompetitive conversion to career status.

Reflecting on his experience as an intern, Coffman said that the program provides benefits to the government and the individuals. “The attractiveness of the program increases the pool of top graduate students seriously considering a career in the Federal Government,” said Coffman. “The assignments and shared experiences not only give



Minerals Management Service employees in Alaska are recognized by the Bureau of Land Management-Alaska with its 1997 Outstanding Partnership Award. The MMS employees were commended for their efforts in helping BLM meet critical deadlines in preparing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. BLM-Alaska State Director Tom Allen presents an engraved gold pan emblematic of the award to MMS employees, from left, Rance Wall, Bob Brock and Ray Emerson. The presentation took place during an all employees meeting in December.

the interns a chance to learn more about different federal agencies but also encourage those who have completed the internship to take a broader view of their roles as federal managers or specialists. Even the assessment exercises themselves were a valuable experience, providing applicants the opportunity to practice a spectrum of competencies, including analytical, policy, and program evaluation abilities as well as teamwork, leadership, and communication skills.”

Coffman, a Dartmouth College graduate, was honored to be selected for the panel. Born in St. Louis, Missouri, and raised in Hawaii, Coffman first came to the MMS in 1984. Later, in 1991 he rejoined the agency, moving into the leasing division. He holds a graduate degree in public policy from the University of Maryland.

Denver Woman Won Trip to Nagano

Hannah Price is a very lucky woman. In July 1997, she was married. On Dec. 1, her 22nd birthday, Price joined the federal workforce as a work trainee for the Royalty Management Program in Denver, Colorado. And in January of this year, she won a free trip to the 1998 Winter Olympic Games in Nagano, Japan.

Price and her husband Derek were elated to hear that they had won a drawing sponsored by Visa and King Soopers, a Colorado supermarket chain. Hannah was especially interested in seeing the woman’s hockey and figure skating competition. Derek, a student of architecture, was looking forward to everything. “We were excited about the trip, and about seeing a foreign culture,” said Hannah of her first trip outside of the United States.



Hannah Price

\$222.5 MILLION REQUESTED FOR MMS FY99 BUDGET

\$6.7 Million Supplemental Sought for FY98

MMS’s fiscal year 1999 budget request of \$222.5 million is about \$13.9 million above the 1998 enacted level and \$7.2 million above the 1998 level adjusted for the proposed supplemental.

The request calls for significant investments for the Offshore Management Program—to meet increasing regulatory responsibilities due to surging leasing and development activity in the Gulf of Mexico—and for the Royalty Management Program—to modernize its collection, accounting, and disbursement systems.

The 1999 request for the Offshore Management Program presumes the continuation of the FY 98 supplemental at an annualized level of \$7.5 million. This request will support an expanded inspection and enforcement workforce to meet the continued growth in the number of offshore facilities in the Gulf of Mexico, and the geographic dispersion of these units. The proposed increase will strengthen the regulatory program to better ensure and maintain MMS’s commitment to the safe and environmentally sound development of the Outer Continental Shelf.

The Offshore Management Program request also includes funding to support environmental studies focusing on deep water regions of the Gulf of Mexico. Industry has invested heavily in these regions, both in technology development and in bonus bids on deep water leases. This investment, as well as the environment, could be at risk if MMS cannot adequately perform such functions as evaluating exploration and development plans, developing appropriate lease stipulations, and evaluating oil spill response plans.

The Administration also proposed a 1998 supplemental appropriation of \$6.7 million for the MMS Offshore Management Program. The request is in response to surging leasing activity in the Gulf of Mexico up to the time of formulation of the 1998 budget,

and bullish predictions of continued robust leasing and commensurate levels of exploratory and development activity. Unexpectedly, leasing activity for the past four lease sales were all record-breakers, greatly exceeding predictions.

“This robust level of activity is likely to surpass MMS’s ability to effectively perform its regulatory responsibilities to ensure continued safe and environmentally sound development of the Outer Continental Shelf at the current funding level,” explained **Director Cynthia Quarterman**.

“Without the staff and resources to support and oversee this increased production activity, the benefits of increased domestically produced energy resources, royalty revenues, and employment opportunities may not be realized.”

The FY99 request also earmarks \$5 million for the Royalty Management Program reengineering effort to begin design of advanced automated systems to implement new core business processes and support systems for the 21st Century. Royalty Management Program modernization is essential for MMS to continue fulfilling its basic goal of ensuring the timely collection, accounting, verification, and disbursement of mineral revenues.

These investments are modest compared to the revenue return they will generate. As the federal agency that manages the nation’s natural gas, oil, and other mineral resources (including sand on the Outer Continental Shelf), the MMS collects, on average, about \$4 billion in revenue each year from federal and Indian lands, but this figure grew to about \$6 billion in 1997.

The FY99 budget request includes \$128.5 million in current appropriations (\$15.1 million less than FY98 enacted level) and \$94 million in offsetting collections (\$29 million above the FY98 enacted level). As can be seen from the decrease in current appropriations, the proposed overall increase in operating authority is more than offset by raising the cap on offsetting collections from last year’s \$65 million to this year’s \$94 million.

Finally, the 1999 budget includes \$610.6 million in permanent appropriations to provide states their statutory share of mineral leasing revenues generated on federal lands.

Education + Opportunity = Leadership x Diversity

Indian Students Absorb More than Water Resources Skills at Southwestern Polytech

Carrie Kemper, Bureau of Reclamation

The equation was spelled out at a dedication ceremony on the campus of Southwestern Indian Polytech Institute in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Representatives from Native American tribes and federal, state, and local agencies gathered at SIPI to dedicate the school’s new Bureau of Reclamation-sponsored water technology curriculum.

While the speakers praised the curriculum partnership, many of them also saw the training program as a first critical step in a process that ultimately could help to address larger issues underlying the economic, social, and political development of American Indian communities.

Reclamation **Commissioner Eluid Martinez** told participants that as the first minority appointee to head the bureau, he felt a strong affinity for other minorities and a special responsibility to help them achieve to the best of their ability. He said that his own role in water resource management was cemented by the “helping hands of education, mentors, and practical experience,” and noted that these three components—which SIPI and Reclamation are striving to provide the students—were necessary to develop a person into a successful, competent worker.

“I look forward to engaging with the students and serving as a role model. It is a program such as this that will plant the seeds to have, for instance, a future—and first—Native American Reclamation Commissioner,” Martinez said.

Other speakers at the Jan. 28 event also developed those themes—the need for government agencies and Native American tribes to increasingly work in partnership to help tribal young people obtain an education and learn marketable skills; and the need for emerging young leaders to become tribal experts in their acquired skills.

Stanley Milford, the vice chairman of SIPI’s Board of Regents and a member of the Navajo Nation, pointed out that the goal of the water technology curriculum is to give Native American students a solid water resource education. “Every tribe has some water deficiency, so it’s important we teach our young people how to more efficiently manage it,” Milford said. In the name of self-governance, tribal members should operate their own water resource projects, he urged, expressing the belief that with this new Reclamation partnership, a more solid foundation for tribal futures is emerging.

Native American speakers echoed Milford’s comments. “Tribal members can come and learn, build a professional atmosphere, and bring this new knowledge back to their tribes,” said **Thomas Crawford**, president of the Native American Water Association, an organization representing tribal utilities.

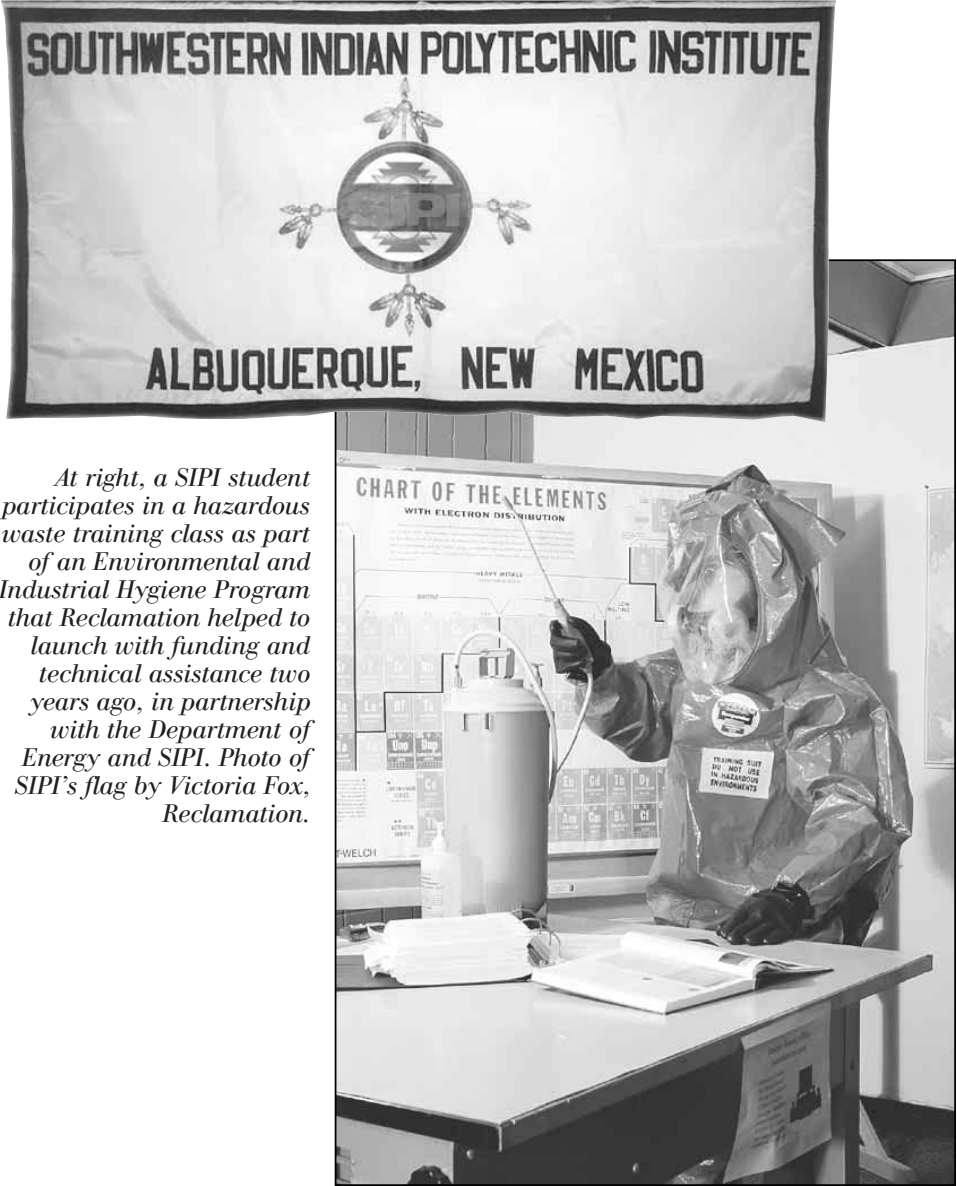
David Montoya, Interior’s deputy assistant secretary for Workforce Diversity, added yet another factor to the equation. He complimented Reclamation for its assistance to Indian Country, noted that SIPI can provide Interior agencies a new pool of employees with water resource technology skills, and said he will encourage those agencies to provide greater opportunity for students who complete the SIPI training program.

“We have to take responsibility to develop a bridge to bring students who graduate at SIPI into a four-year institution and then hiring them into the Interior family,” Montoya said. “The initial investment is more than worth it, for once SIPI students graduate from these specialized technical programs, they can contribute to the goals and mission of our organization, either through permanent employment at Interior or by returning to their reservation and serving as an important technical liaison between Interior and the tribal council.

“These students are our future environmental resource leaders,” said Montoya, who is helping to coordinate a national dialogue on race and has set up focus groups to further this effort, one of which will take place at SIPI in May.



SIPI student council member Feather Astor, right, whose heritage is Mountain Ute of Colorado and San Carlos Apache of Arizona, gives Reclamation employees Carrie Kemper and Neil Stessman a tour of the campus. Astor says SIPI is doing a good job of publicizing the water curriculum. Although a computer science major, she plans to take some of the new classes. Photo by Victoria Fox, Reclamation



At right, a SIPI student participates in a hazardous waste training class as part of an Environmental and Industrial Hygiene Program that Reclamation helped to launch with funding and technical assistance two years ago, in partnership with the Department of Energy and SIPI. Photo of SIPI’s flag by Victoria Fox, Reclamation.

The Water Curriculum Project

The object of these hopes and dreams is a water resource curriculum that Reclamation developed with SIPI under a cooperative agreement. Reclamation is providing funding assistance, water experts as course instructors, student internships, and mentoring programs. The courses are offered to students as part of SIPI’s Environmental Science and Industrial Hygiene Program—a two-year old curriculum that also was developed through a Reclamation partnership with SIPI and the Department of Energy.

Through its Memorandum of Agreement with SIPI, Reclamation provided \$250,000 this fiscal year and \$100,000 last fiscal year toward the new water technology courses. Reclamation has pledged to continue its efforts to broaden the water resources curriculum to fit the needs of the school, its students, and Indian communities.

Professor **Tom Corbitt**, who coordinates the new curriculum, predicts that the first students will graduate SIPI with a specialty in water resources technology in the Fall semester 1999. (SIPI recently graduated its first student in the Environmental Science and Industrial Hygiene Program with an associate’s degree and one-year certificate.) The new curriculum will provide training to both students and current tribal water managers in subjects such as basic water laws and water rights.

Six students have already signed up for specialized short courses such as *Small Water System Operations and Maintenance* and *Western Water Law and Regulations*. Because tribes are often unable to release their tribal officials for a long period of time, such as a full semester or more, SIPI instituted short courses. Lasting for weeks rather than months, these courses are flexible and designed to meet tribal needs.

SIPI was founded in 1971 and became accredited as a community college in 1993. Its administrative staff is 100 percent American Indian; its professorship, 30 percent. SIPI is one of only two post-secondary institutions—and the only institution in the Southwest—operated through the Bureau of Indian Affairs. SIPI has received heightened recognition since 1996, when **President Clinton** signed an executive order that reaffirmed the Federal Government’s special relationship to American Indians and Alaska Natives. The order aims to ensure that federal agencies are providing technical, financial, and administrative assistance in support of Indian education.



Above, Commissioner Eluid Martinez, left, speaks to SIPI student Anthony Armijo of the Pueblo of Nambe who, like many of the students, has a full-time job and occasionally takes short classes to hone up on technical skills. Photo by Mark Hopwood, SIPI.

At right, students listen to SIPI instructor Darryl Jones, right, who heads up the Business Technology Department. “It’s energizing to be a part of something that’s headed up,” says Jones. Photo by Victoria Fox, Reclamation

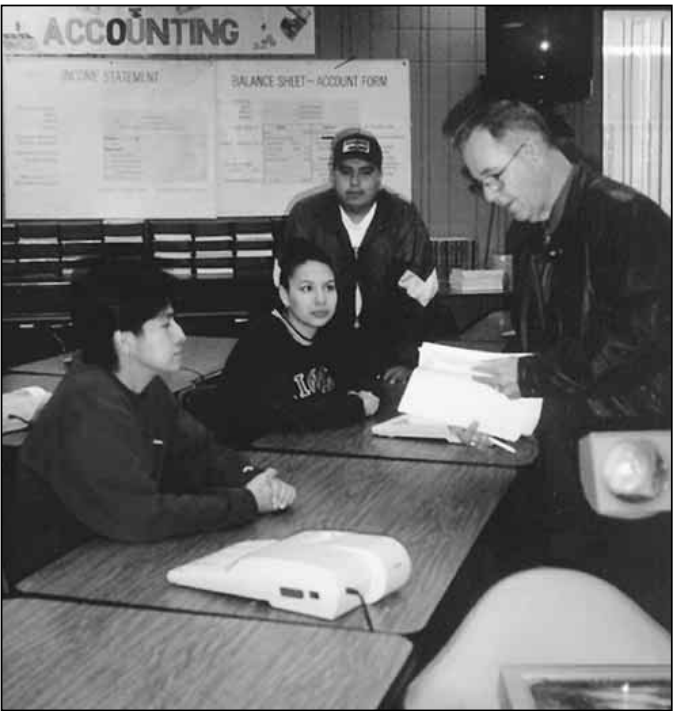


Above, from left, Interior’s Deputy Assistant Secretary for Workforce Diversity David Montoya, SIPI President Dr. Carolyn Elgin and Reclamation Commissioner Eluid Martinez enjoy a moment together on the SIPI campus. Photo by Mark Hopwood, SIPI. At left, SIPI instructor Tom Corbitt uses of an aquifer model that demonstrates more than 27 water concepts, such as the effects of pollution, porosity, and permeability. Below, Reclamation’s Native American Affairs Director Chris Kenney speaks at the dedication ceremony. Photos by Victoria Fox, Reclamation.



“SIPI’s focus on personal development has allowed students who did not receive adequate education in high school to achieve the academic standing to pursue advanced education and gain top jobs in the workforce, on or off the reservation,” said **Dr. Carolyn Elgin**, the president of SIPI for the past seven years. Elgin said that the admissions policy is open-door and flexible, allowing many students to alternate between school and jobs. Classes are tailored to meet the educational needs of individuals, which is crucial because of the varying skill levels of incoming students.

Elgin, a member of the Oklahoma Choctaw tribe, said enrollment, which has increased more than 50 percent in the last five years, averages 650 residential and commuter students each semester. The school, located on a 165-acre campus, attracts students from more than 100 different Indian tribes. Native American students attend classes free of charge and those living on campus pay a nominal fee of under \$250 a semester.



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Next Issue: Haskell Indian Nations University Offers Holistic Natural Resources Program

A Jaos Pueblo Prayer

Almighty and spiritual father,
I pray to you for the people gathered here this morning with my humble words.
Forgive me, for I am not worthy of your power and wisdom that I say these words.

From the great blue lake and rock I see it, the daybreak star, the sign of the dawning;
Above the mountain it rises and my heart dances,
Now that light comes, the light that makes me one with all life.
Like the spirit I am,
Who sings in the dawn,
Who is humble with love,
Who walks in the circle of the greater love and the greater power.
Let us be like a ray of light,
Like the waterfall laughing with light,
Like the Mother Earth so full of life,
Like the red willow full of color,
Like the great tree mighty in its roots that split the rocks,
Mighty in its head that reaches the sky,
And its heavens catch the light and sings with the wind a song of circle.

Let our lives be like the rainbows, whose colors teach us unity.
Let us follow always the great circle, the roundness of power.
One with the moon and the sun, and the ripple of waters;
Following the sacred way of honor,
A guide and protector of the weak;
A rock of strength in our words that shall say no evil — neither lie nor deception.
Let us be like the other so loyal to the Mother Earth he will die for her;
So strong to her children they obey her as the shadows obey the sun;
And whose voice whispers to me in the breeze,
Whose words come to me out of the circle of life,
And whose command is like the thunder.

Be kind, be kind, be brave, be brave,
Be humble as the earth,
And be as radiant as the sunlight.

These words I say to you in blessing.

James Lujan, SIPI’s dean of instruction, opened the water resource curriculum dedication with this prayer by the Taos Pueblo tribe. Lujan spoke in his native language and then translated the prayer into English.

An important component of Reclamation’s partnership with SIPI is follow-through, which was why much of Reclamation’s top brass, such as Reclamation Service Center Director **Neil Stessman**, Pacific Northwest Regional Director **John Keys**, and Acting Director of Policy Analysis **Margaret Sibley**, attended the water curriculum dedication ceremony.

“I felt it was important to be here to support this,” said Sibley. She plans to be part of Reclamation’s follow-through by helping to publicize the program, encouraging agency employees to volunteer their expertise and serve as mentors, and assisting students with job placement when they graduate.

The representatives of other Interior agencies at the dedication expressed interest in this program, including officials from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, Office of Surface Mining, and Bureau of Land Management.

“Federal agencies are watching what we’ve been doing and considering adding their own resources to help Indian country education prosper,” said **Chris Kenney**, the director of Native American Affairs for Reclamation. “We’re encouraging other agencies to step in with funding and technical assistance.”

That involvement could mean anything from hiring SIPI students upon graduation to working with the school on a natural resource curriculum that meets agency and tribal needs. Agencies wishing to fulfill their obligations to the Native American community through an innovative program such as this are encouraged to call Chris Kenney at (202) 208-5000 or David Montoya at (202) 208-4727.



Allen P. Stayman, Director
David S. North, Bureau Editor

Census Estimates for the U.S. Islands Released Early

Because some federal programs base their distribution of funds, in part, on the most recent official Census data, the Office of Insular Affairs, in February, advanced the release of the official U.S. Census population estimates for the four U.S. island territories.

The data are to be shown in more detail in the State of the Islands report which OIA will make available in March. The Census Bureau’s estimates for mid-year 1997, the 1990 enumeration data, and birth and death rates are shown in the accompanying table. The Office of Insular Affairs, using a different methodology which assumes more immigration than the Census does, estimates a mid-1997 population for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) of 71,000, a majority of whom are alien workers. This estimate is larger than the Census estimate shown in the table.

The Census estimates are based on earlier enumerations (actual counts of people) together with Census Bureau estimates of births, deaths and net migration for the years after the most recent enumeration.

The Census Bureau reported that birth rates fell in American Samoa from 39/1000 in 1990 to 28/1000 in 1997; the birth rate in the CNMI was between 26 and 27/1000 in

Island Populations Grew from 1990 to 1997

Jurisdiction	Population 1990	Population Estimate 1997	Birth rate per 1000 1990	Birth rate per 1000 1997 (est.)	Death rate per 1000 1990	Death rate per 1000 1997 (est.)
American Samoa	47,199	60,400	39.3	28.1	5.1	4.0
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	43,325	63,800	26.9	26.4	3.3	2.3
Guam	133,152	145,800	28.7	26.1	4.2	4.4
U.S. Virgin Islands	101,809	114,500	23.3	17.2	4.9	5.0
The United States	248,765,000	267,636,000	16.7	n.a.	8.6	n.a.

Note: 1990 data are counts; 1997 numbers are estimates; source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. The data for 1990 is for April 1 of that year; for 1997 it is a mid-year estimate. The totals for the United States are for the 50 states plus the District of Columbia

1990 and again in 1997; birth rates in Guam fell from 29/1000 in 1990 to 26/1000 in 1997, while in the USVI, where the rate is the lowest in the U.S. islands, it fell from 23/1000 in 1990 to an estimated 17/1000 in 1997.

Death rates varied slightly but all were under 5.5/1000 in both years in all four jurisdictions. The large difference between the low death rates and the high birth rates caused most of the increase in population, except in the CNMI where the major factor was the increase in the number of temporary alien workers.

For the year 1997, the Census estimated that the net migration into and out of the four territories was +260 for American Samoa; +1,453 in the CNMI; -827 in Guam; and -181 in the U.S. Virgin Islands. All the territories grew in population between 1990 and 1997; those experiencing the larger inward flows of migration grew the most rapidly.

FY 99 INSULAR AFFAIRS BUDGET PROPOSES SMALL INCREASE

President Clinton’s proposed budget for fiscal year 1999 contains a small overall increase for the U.S. related islands. The total will go from \$304.5 million to \$309.7 million, an increase of \$5.2 million, or about two percent.

While there are some off-setting decreases, the largest increases will be advances to the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) for taxes on rum to be collected later by the federal government, and for the containment of the Brown Tree Snake, a pest which threatens to invade other Pacific islands, particularly Hawaii and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) as it has infested Guam.

The U.S. Government traditionally advances taxes on rum manufactured in the USVI to the Territorial Government. The Administration will propose legislation to increase the tax payment to the USVI from the current level of \$11.30 per proof gallon to the full \$13.50 collected by the U.S. Treasury. As a result, the advances on the rum taxes will increase from about \$46 million in the current fiscal year, to about \$55 million in FY ‘99.

“At a time of continuing fiscal austerity it is good to know that the Federal Government will be able to continue to aid the islands at about the same levels as in the recent past,” said **Allen P. Stayman**, director of the Department’s Office of Insular Affairs.

A little more than half of the OIA’s budget goes to the U.S. territories (American Samoa, the CNMI, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands), or \$164.6 million, while the rest is for the freely associated states (the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau), \$145.1 million.

The freely associated states were administered under a United Nations Trusteeship Agreement, but they have since become independent nations in free association with the U.S. The Compacts of Free Association between these Pacific island states and the United States call for ongoing scheduled payments each year until early in the next century. Most of the Compact funds are in the form of permanent appropriations and are not subject to the year-by-year budget process. Under the Compacts, the U.S. has military basing rights and the right to exclude foreign military forces from the freely associated states.

Within the discretionary budget for the islands there are several changes: an additional \$1 million for the Brown Tree Snake Control and Eradication Program (from \$1.6 million to \$2.6 million), and reductions in three other programs.

The OIA’s technical assistance program, which supports training programs, specialized expertise, and other assistance efforts in all seven jurisdictions, is to be reduced from \$6.5 million to \$5.3 million; the maintenance assistance fund, which is used to improve the islands’ capacities to maintain infrastructure, will drop from \$3.3 million to \$2.2 million, while a program to assist one of the nuclear-impacted islands in the Marshalls, Enewetak, will decline from \$1.2 million to \$1.1 million.

The budget proposes to continue the \$23.1 million operations grant, the annual lump-sum payment to the American Samoan government, as it did in the current fiscal year. Similarly, the budget proposes to allocate \$27.7 million in mandatory Covenant grant funding as it did in 1998: \$11 million to the CNMI for construction projects; \$2 million for the CNMI labor/immigration/law enforcement program; \$4.6 million to Guam for construction projects to help with the financial impact of freely-associated states citizens on the local government; and \$10.1 million for construction projects in American Samoa.

In the case of the CNMI construction grants, which must be matched with local tax funds, the appropriations language calls for setting aside \$5 million for a new prison, and \$500,000 for a crime laboratory.

The Administration remains concerned over the financial situation in American Samoa. American Samoa’s deficit increased by \$6 million in fiscal year 1997. One of the major causes of American Samoa’s financial problems is inadequate control over health care costs, with no fees or dedicated revenues for cost recovery. This problem was recognized by the Appropriations Committees which placed a hold on any additional capital funding for health care facilities until an independent hospital board with rate-setting authority is created. OIA expects that the Fono, American Samoa’s legislature, will create such a board in the near future.



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